Tuesday, October 16, 2012 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 37 / No. 310 P18 | Mobile Alerts Text INQ DREAMS to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

'Peace is within reach'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FACES OF PEACE Two girls wearing Muslim head dresses flash "peace signs" after the government and Moro rebel leaders announce the signing of a preliminary agreement aimed at ending 40 years of separatist war in Mindanao. JOAN BONDOC

President, Murad vow to end war in South

By Michael Lim Ubac

"THIS is the sound of peace," a smiling Murad Ebrahim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said as he tapped a miniature model of a Muslim gong that he gave to President Aquino during their meeting in Malacañang yesterday morning.

In return, the President gave Murad a miniature *bahay kubo* (nipa hut), symbolizing the open house welcome that Filipinos extend to homecoming relatives.

PEACE A4

Moro leaders set foot on 'seat of oppression'

• P-Noy peace drive part of parents' 'continuing journey' / A6

A day of great hope, says Malaysian PM

By TJ Burgonio

"ON THIS DAY of hope and promise, we must not forget the challenges that remain. The ink on this paper will not serve a single life unless it is matched with a true and immovable commitment to peace."

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak summed up the challenge confronting the administration of President Aquino and leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in remarks at the signing ceremony in Malacañang yesterday of a framework agreement for a Bangsamoro.

"If tension arises it must be met with tolerance. All parties must stand by the principles on which this agreement rests: Respect for religion, benevolence and human rights," he said. "This is not an endpoint, but a beginning. There's still much to be done."

The leader of the country also hastened the peace talks to

A BAY / A10

HISTORIC DEAL Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator (left, first row), shakes hands with his government counterpart, Marvic Leonen, after signing a preliminary agreement on ending war in the southern Philippines. Standing between them is Malaysian facilitator Ghazlan Mahamud. Applauding, from left, are MILF chair Murad Ebrahim, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, President Aquino and Secretary Teresita Deles. STR/EPA

'Allahu Akbar!' rings in Darapanan

By Aquiles Zonio and Karlos Manlupig
Camp Darapanan in Maguindanao

AS THEIR chieftain spoke in Manila of an end to the "long struggle for justice and peace" of the Moro people, fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) some 980 kilometers away raised their fists and assault rifles while chanting "Allahu Akbar!" (God is Great!) on the grassy fairland of Camp Darapanan in Maguindanao.

Ebrahim's team slid on his cheeks as Murad Ebrahim, the MILF chair, delivered yesterday afternoon in Malacañang the rebel group's sentiments about the peace framework agreement that culminated years of off-and-on negotiations with the government.

"There were tears of joy."

ALLAHU A8

Iko: It's a recipe for another big, big war in Mindanao / A6

22 more party-list groups disqualified

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Leila B. Salaverria

TWO PARTY-LIST groups representing electricity consumers and 20 others have been dropped from the roster of organizations qualified to take part in the 2013 midterm congressional elections.

Announcing the second batch of groups ineligible to run for congressional seats next year, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday said it had canceled the accreditation of

13 MORE A15

Heavy fire prompts Recto to quit sin tax job

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

SEN. RALPH Recto yesterday resigned irrevocably as chair of the ways and means committee, saying executive officials who helped him craft the report that sought to raise taxes on liquor and tobacco were the first ones to attack it after he delivered it on the floor.

But the Senate leadership defended the acceptance of Recto's resignation.

Recto did not name the officials but descriptions he gave in a privilege speech referred to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Health Secretary Enrique Ona and Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares.

Recto also withdrew the controversial 30-page committee report that critics described as "watered down."

He said it was "untenable to continue defending (it) when people who (are supposed) to backstop me from the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Health (DOH)

HEAVY A6

Intramuros resto accepts orders for Calungsod images

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A RESTAURANT known for serving dishes named after Catholic bishops has a new specialty—it's not anything you can eat but it's definitely "faced" for the cost.

The latest offering by Ristorante Delle Mitre—an eatery that stands in a cluster of

MISYO A15

Skydiver breaks sound barrier in record jump

RUIDOSO, New Mexico—In a giant leap from more than 38 kilometers (24 miles) up, a daredevil skydiver shattered the sound barrier while making the highest jump ever—a nail-biting, death-defying plunge from a balloon to a safe landing in the New Mexico desert.

Felix Baumgartner hit Mach 1.24 or 1,342 kilometer per hour (833.9 miles per hour) on Sunday, according to preliminary data, and became the first man to reach supersonic speed without traveling in a jet or a spacecraft after hopping out of a capsule that had reached an altitude of 39,045 meters (128,100 feet) above Earth.

SKYDIVER A15

Resorts World Manila Barks For Artists To Join PUJ Art Contest

Resorts World Manila, continues to showcase the best of the Philippines to the rest of the world, as it launches the 'Pinoy Ultimate Jeepney or PUJ' from its starting with an art contest this October.

The contest is open to all artists who can design a full-scale jeepney via the theme Grand Tour: On The Road, highlighting our culture and heritage using actual jeepneys as art canvases. Submission of concept board entries is ongoing until 18 November 2012, with colored panels as the required medium. The contest is divided into two categories, the Traditional and the Extreme, with required perspectives in front, sides, back, and top view. Major prizes await winners of the art challenge.

For more information on the PUJ art contest, call (632) 687-7777 local 182 or mobile number 0917-5113861 (office hours only), and look for Ms. Monica Baldonaza. Design templates and more details available soon via www.rwmanila.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

WHAT'S INSIDE

METRO
Predawn attack leaves 7 dead in Rizal / A19

BUSINESS
BIR misses 9-month target by 3.5% / B1

WORLD
Sihanouk, longtime Cambodian leader; 89 / A21

LIFESTYLE
How brides slimmed down for their wedding / C2

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONT PAGE

6/49	
1st	23 1
2nd	1 15
3rd	33 30

SUERTRES	
1st	3 9 7
2nd	0 2 2
3rd	3 9 1

4D DIGIT	
	6 2 3 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45	
	26 33 36 39 40 42
	P4,500,000.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO	
	7 8 25 34 47 54
	P73,143,018.80

LOTTO, 3D/2D Tues 6PM LOTTO, result to 6PM. PCSO.gov.ph

SC affirms Pinoy control of utilities

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE SUPREME Court (SC) has ruled with finality that the 60-percent Filipino ownership over foreigners required by the Constitution to engage in certain economic activities, particularly public utilities, extended not only to the voting rights but also to the beneficial ownership of the corporation.

In its Oct. 9 ruling released yesterday, the high court also reiterated its order for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to determine whether Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) was in violation of the 60-40 nationality requirement for common voting public utilities.

Voting 10-5-1, the high court has made denial with finality the petitions filed by businessman and PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan against its June 26, 2011, ruling on the 60-40 nationality requirement in favor of Filipinos in the operation of public utilities.

The 51-page decision was penned by Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Carpio on Oct. 9 but was only released yesterday.

Those who concurred were Carpio, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Teresita de Castro, Arturo Brion, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Martin Villarama Jr., Jose Perez and Jose Mendoza. The dissenters were Associate Justices Roberto Abad, Presbitero Velasco and Bienvenido Reyes, while Associate Justice Estela Perlas-Bernabe abstained.

In its ruling, the high court said it did not touch on whether PLDT violated the 60-40 percent requirement, reiterating that the SEC was the "administrative body" tasked to enforce the 60-40 nationality requirement. The court had "limited its decision on the purely legal and theoretical issue on the definition of the term capital, in Section 11, Article XII, of the Constitution."

During oral arguments of the case, the SEC defended to the high court's definition of capital and said that it would comply with its directive with regard to PLDT.

The high court said PLDT must be cognizant in order to fully resolve the issues on whether the sale of the 111,455 Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC) shares in PLDT to First Pacific Co. Ltd. in 2006 circumvented the constitutional limit on foreign ownership; whether the sale of common shares to foreigners exceeded the 40 percent limit on foreign equity and whether the total percentage of PLDT common shares with voting rights complied with the 60-40 control and requirement in favor of Filipino citizens under the Constitution for the ownership and operation of PLDT.

Since the high court limited its resolution on the legal issue on the definition of the term "capital" and asked the SEC to investigate any violations by PLDT, it said it did not deprive PLDT of any property or deny its right to due process contrary to the "misimpression" of Pangilinan and PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno.

"Due process will be afforded to PLDT when it presents proof to the SEC that it complies, as it claims here, with Section 11, Article XII, of the Constitution," it said.

The high court had earlier ruled that reports to Section 11 of Article XII of the Constitution referred "only to shares of stock entitled to vote in the election of directors, and thus only to common shares, and not to the total outstanding capital stock (common and nonvoting preferred shares.)

In its decision, the high court maintained that to have "effective control" of a corporation, there should be weight to elect officers as well as beneficial ownership of the firm.

It said this was consistent with Section 3 of the Foreign Investment Act which provides that "where 100 percent of the capital is held by 'a trustee of funds for pension or other employee retirement or separation benefits,' the trustee is a Philippine national if at least 60 percent of the fund will accrue to the benefit of Philippine nationals.

The high court underscored the need for such requirement to be applied uniformly and across the board to all classes of shares.

"The 60-40 ownership requirement in favor of Filipinos must apply separately to each class of shares, whether common, preferred nonvoting, preferred voting or any other class of shares," it said.

The court said the uniform application of the 60-40 ownership requirement in favor of Filipinos on each class of shares "guarantees effective Filipino control of public utilities," in keeping with the Constitution.

Left asks Aquino: How about us?

By Gil Cabunagan

A LEADER of the militant Left yesterday urged President Aquino to do for the communist rebels what he did for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and step in to revive the stalled peace negotiations with the insurgent group.

"If they want intervention ... if he is to uphold his vow to resume peace talks on [the] heels of (a) comprehensive understanding of the root causes of the conflict, with clear policies that will pave the way ahead," Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said in a text message.

Ocampo made the statement amid mounting pressure on the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP/NPA) to return to the negotiating table in order to forge a peace pact with the government.

'Bad blood'

Akbayan party-list Rep. Walden Bello said the framework agreement under the MILF should exert more pressure on the government-National Democratic Front (NDF) negotiators to come up with a deal, although "bad blood" between the Philippine Army and the MILF had made here possible.

"The government's civilian negotiators are trying every hand, but the army and the NDF are not willing to move forward. I doubt very much if there will be an agreement in the next year or so. I hope I'm wrong," Bello said.

Ocampo stressed that the Left should not be blamed for the stalemate and that the government is solely responsible for the failure of the talks.

"The block comes from the government rising questions on process against the [admittedly] mentally ill Slimed," he said.

"The pressure to unilaterally take steps to resume formal talks with the NDF is more on the government," he added.

Anakpawis Rep. Joan Edgardo Angeles said the signing of a framework agreement with the MILF should be interpreted as a call to end the armed conflict.

"Even world-wide events where former armed partisans have resented the maltreatment of politics and even led governments may present alternative directions for the militant Left," Angeles said.

PH is 3rd most risk-prone country, new study shows

By Tarra Quismundo

AFTER Pacific coastlines Tonga and Samoa, the Philippines ranks as the third most disaster-prone country in the world because of its high exposure to natural calamities, a new international report showed.

The World Disaster Report 2012, released in Brussels on Oct. 11, also said that the Philippines had spent up to 26 million of its people—about a fifth of the total population—from natural disasters by improving the protection of its coastwalls, a primary line of defense against coastal hazards, including tsunamis.

Tropical and coastal nations led the list of 15 countries at high risk for disasters, "owing in large measure to the sea... [that] exposes [them] to the natural hazards of cyclones, flooding and sea level rise," read the report.

The report's list of the top 15 most-at-risk nations included Guatemala, Bangladesh, Solomon Islands, Costa Rica, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, El Salvador, Brunei Darussalam, Papua New Guinea, Honduras, Nicaragua and Fiji.

Adaptation measures

Although third in the list, the Philippines had the best rating on adaptation measures, with scores similar to that of Malaysia and Thailand, which ranked 91st and 92nd, respectively.

The report, a collaboration among the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), the German Alliance for Development Works (Alliance) and the US-based environment group The Nature Conservancy, rated the disaster risk of 173 countries using "globally available data" on their individual exposure and susceptibility to disasters, as well as their coping and adaptive capacities in the event of natural calamities.

Apart from an overall rating, the report also released three essential scores in five fundamentals. Disaster exposure, vulnerability, susceptibility, lack of coping capacities and lack of adaptive capacities.

"The top 15 most at-risk nations are all tropical and coastal, where coastal habitats like reefs and mangroves are incredibly important for people's lives and livelihoods. Reefs, for example, can reduce wave energy by around 97 percent, a more than 85 percent." The Conservancy said in a statement printed on its website.

The report noted how disaster preparedness and mitigation and adaptation measures implemented by governments could reduce risk, and cited the Netherlands for its highly developed coping and adaptation measures.

Lowest-risk countries

Africans and Latin American countries also made up the riskiest half of the list, while Middle Eastern, European and North American countries were rated among the less risk nations. Malta and Qatar were rated as the two lowest-risk countries.

The study further noted the increasing incidence of natural disasters through "manmade environmental degradation and climate change. The report said some 4,100 natural disasters were recorded from 2002 to 2011, leaving more than a million victims and an economic loss of roughly $1.195 trillion.

"So far, people have rarely been the direct triggers of such disasters. But with their devastating interventions in nature, they have massively raised the hazard potential," the report said.

"The destruction of mangrove forests and coral reefs, for example, off the coasts of Southeast Asia, has reduced protection against tidal waves and flooding," it added.

'Nina' exiting early but rains to stay

By Jeannette I. Andrade

EXPECT more rains, although Typhoon "Nina" is expected to exit the country much earlier.

Nina (international name: Prapiroon) has gained speed and may well be outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) by this afternoon.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that as of yesterday afternoon, Nina had slightly weakened, packing maximum sustained winds of 130 kph near the center and gustiness of 160 kph, from its previous 140 kph to 170 kph then.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the eye of the typhoon was estimated at 870 km northeast of Mauban, Batanes.

Weather forecaster Julio Hizon said Nina had gained speed and was moving at a steady 5 kph northwest.

The typhoon's increased speed, Hizon explained, means it could be out of the PAR earlier than forecasted, based on its erroneously slow movement on Sunday.

Rainfall is estimated to range from heavy to intense (30 mm to 200 mm per hour) within the 600-km diameter of the typhoon in northern Luzon.

According to the weather bureau, Mindanao is expected to have light to moderate rains, with showers or thunderstorms, while Metro Manila and the rest of the country is anticipated to have partly cloudy skies with brief rain showers or thunderstorms.

United Auctioneers, Inc.
AUCTION DATES:
OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2012
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)
INSPECTION & REGISTRATION STARTS TODAY
TCM L32
INSPECTION DATES:
OCTOBER
7 DAY PARADE AUCTION
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
SALE STARTS AT 8:30 AM SHARP
Tels: (047) 252-1129 • 252-1130 to 38 • (02) 426-3008
(02) 711-5270 • CP: 0917-729-2828 • 0917-8187000
0918-9197000 • 9923684583 / 84 • FAX: (047) 252-5999
sales@unitedmotors.net • www.unitedmotors.net

CCTV Systems
P13,900 only
www.hottoytech.com

Hospitalized GMA, Morato get arraignment break

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday deferred the arraignment of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) director Manuel Morato for plunder because of their medical conditions.

The two are among those accused in the alleged embezzlement of P366 million in PCSO intelligence funds.

Arroyo's chief legal counsel, lawyer Antonio Contreras, informed the antigraft court's First Division that Arroyo's attending physician at Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) where she is now confined did not give her clearance to leave the hospital.

She was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) on Friday due to a blockage in her arteries. Arroyo spent two days in the ICU where she was monitored with chest pains and coronary ischemia, or diminished blood flow to the heart.

Arroyo was moved out of the ICU and was transferred to the presidential suite on Sunday, according to hospital director Dr. Irene Legaspi.

Asked if this means that the patient's condition had improved, Legaspi said: "That means that clinically, she is stable, but the risk is still there."

Because of this perceived risk, the VMMC advised against letting Arroyo attend her arraignment yesterday in the Sandiganbayan.

"It is still risky for her to go out, since we cannot quantify her cardiac condition and we have not yet done stress," Legaspi said.

The VMMC yesterday sent a medical certificate dated Oct. 14, signed by Dr. Irene Cruz, in which the hospital said it may be better to forego the arraignment of Arroyo, "until there is clinical evidence for her to do so."

The VMMC said the patient's angina-chest pains and the ICU monitor "necessitate an investigation for significant coronary disease."

Morato's lawyer, on the other hand, said his client was confined at St. Luke's Medical Center with a heart ailment.

The Sandiganbayan reset their arraignment to Oct. 29 but Ilina appealed to the court for a later date, saying he was filing a certiorari before the Supreme Court to challenge the plunder findings of the Office of the Ombudsman against Arroyo.

Coacused plead not guilty

The antigraft court, however, proceeded with the arraignment of former PCSO chief Sergio Valencia and former PCSO assistant manager for finance Benigno Aguas, who both pleaded not guilty to the charge. The two are currently detained in Camp Crame.

The court has yet to resolve a pending motion filed by Arroyo's lawyer to allow her to remain under hospital arrest at the VMMC and undergo tests at the Philippine Heart Center.

The other coaccused in the plunder case are former PCSO General Manager Rosario Uriarte; former director Raymundo Suguitan; Jose Taruc V; and Ma. Corazon Wedel; former commission on audit (COA) Chair Reynaldo Villar and COA Region 9 head Nilda Ocita.

The Bureau of Immigration earlier said that only Ilina was able to leave the country on July 31, or a day before a hold-departure order was issued by the Sandiganbayan.

A resolution signed by all three justices of the Sandiganbayan's First Division said there was no sufficient basis to sustain the Ombudsman's findings that the 20 had conspired to embezzle the P366 million confidential and intelligence fund of the PCSO.

With a report from Aries M. Arevalo

House passes next year's P2-T budget

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE HOUSE of Representatives swiftly approved the P2.006-trillion 2013 national budget proposal on third and final reading with a 191-6 vote yesterday afternoon.

Outgoing House appropriations chair Joseph Emilio Abaya, who is moving on to the Department of Transportation and Communications as its secretary, alluded concerns the money measure was meant to help administration allies running in the 2013 polls.

"This will come out by the time the Commission on Elections has rail kick in. Majority of the appropriations in the 2013 budget won't affect the elections. It's the 2012 budget that is the real election budget. Get again, that doesn't imply it will be used for partisan purposes," Abaya told reporters.

The proposal features a higher budget for infrastructure and for the administration's conditional cash transfer (CCT) program for the poor.

Abaya also said the approved budget cleared up the status of the P10-billion Priority Social and Economic Projects Fund (PSEPF).

The PSEPF is a lump sum that comprises allocations for special projects of various agencies that have not been put under their respective budgets because the project proposals lacked details.

2013 election worries

Critics say the fund could be used for the 2013 elections, given the administration's control over the release of the money.

But Abaya said that during budget deliberations, various agencies submitted the particulars of forty-projects that fell under the PSEPF.

With all the project details completed, the amounts initially placed under the PSEPF were allocated to respective agencies, along with the breakdown of how the funds would be spent.

Abaya also said that the lawmakers' Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), or pork barrel, remained intact, although the lawmakers added another item to the menu of projects for which they could use the fund.

If members of the House is allowed P70 million a year from the PDAF.

The pork barrel can now be used for the development Academy of the Philippines to train barangay (village) officials.

The Aquino administration has proposed setting aside P400.8 billion for infrastructure outlays, including allocations for government-owned and controlled corporations, for 2013.

The budget for the CCT was expanded to P94.256 billion to cover 3.8 million households.

The 44 lawmakers who objected to the budget were Gabriela Representatives Liza Ilagan and Emmi de Jesus, Siquijor Rep. Orlando Fua, Bayan Muna Reps. Teddy Casiño, Act Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio and Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano.

5 DAY BUYING EVENT!!!

THE LARGEST JEWELRY BUYING EVENT IN THE PHILIPPINES!

BUYING!!!

GOLD • SILVER • PLATINUM

AMERICA'S MOST TRUSTED GOLD BUYERS

WE PAY CASH FOR GOLD NOW!

TUE OCT 16 • WED OCT 17 • THU OCT 18 • FRI OCT 19 • SAT OCT 20

10 am to 6pm - Tue-Fri & 10am to 4pm - Sat

4 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Edsa Shangri La		Marriott MANILA	NEW WORLD MAKATI CITY MANILA HOTEL
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City	Filinvest Corporate City Alabang Muntinlupa	Newport City Complex Pasay City, Manila	Esperanza Street corner Makati Ave. Ayala Center, Makati City
MANDALUYONG	ALABANG	PASAY CITY	MAKATI

CASH HANDED OUT ON THE SPOT!!!

WE WANT THE 10K – 12K – 14K – 16K 18K – 22K – 24K THAT YOU DON'T!

Gold Bracelets ..... up to P80,000	Gold School Rings ..... up to P22,000	Gold Pocket Watches ..... up to P35,000
Gold Necklaces ..... up to P110,000	Gold Charms ..... up to P40,000	Gold Link Bracelets ..... up to P110,000
Gold Rings ..... up to P22,000	Gold Earrings ..... up to P9,000	Gold Pendant Charms ..... up to P44,000
Gold Watch Cases ..... up to P33,000	Dental Gold ..... up to P40,000	Gold Service Awards ..... up to P22,000
Gold Watch Bands ..... up to P44,000	Gold Scrap ..... up to P57,000	Gold Pendant Bracelets ..... up to P66,000
Gold Wedding Bands ..... up to P15,000	Gold Nugget Bracelets ..... up to P110,000	Gold Cuff Links ..... up to P33,000
Gold Bangles ..... up to P37,000	Gold Broken Necklaces ..... up to P66,000	Gold Pendant Rings ..... up to P22,000
Gold Pendants ..... up to P33,000	Gold Pens ..... up to P17,000	Gold Bracelets ..... up to P44,000
Gold Charm Bracelets ..... up to P44,000	Gold Watches ..... up to P77,000	Gold Coins ..... up to P660,000
Gold Charms ..... up to P33,000	Gold Nugget Rings ..... up to P35,000	Gold Bars ..... up to P660,000

HIGHEST CASH PRICES FOR GOLD, COINS AND STERLING SILVER!

Stamped Sterling, Flatware & Service Sets

We buy all "Sterling Stamped Silver": Goblets, Candle Holders, Bowls, Platters, Salt and Pepper Shakers

Tea Sets	Up to P110,000
Serving Trays	Up to P55,000
Antique Tableware	Up to P280,000
Flatware Sets	Up to P130,000

US Historic Gold Coins

Morgan rounds, Eagles, Maple Leafs

$1.00 U.S. GOLD	P13,000 to P360,000
$2.00 U.S. GOLD	P15,000 to P250,000
$5.00 U.S. GOLD	P11,000 to P265,000
$10.00 U.S. GOLD	P15,000 to P340,000
$10.00 U.S. GOLD	P9,000 to P529,000
$20.00 U.S. GOLD	P22,000 to P66,000

US Historic Silver Coins

Morgans, Peace Dollars & more...

Stop by our event today and let us pay you CASH on the spot! SILVER DOLLARS, SILVER HALVES, SILVER QUARTERS, SILVER DIMES

$1.00 Silver (1935 & earlier)	P400 minimum
90% Silver (1964 & earlier)	P300 minimum
35% Silver (1964 & earlier)	P50 minimum
90% Silver (1964 & earlier)	P25 minimum

YOUR UNWANTED JEWELRY COULD BE WORTH LOTS OF MONEY!

NEW ! OLD ! BROKEN!

WE BUY ALL!

BEST PRICES FOR YOUR GOLD!

'Jobs getting hard to find in Marianas'

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has warned Filipino doctors, nurses and other professional medical workers about applying for jobs in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), saying that latest reports indicated a dire economic situation in the US-owned territory.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, citing a recent report from the Philippine consulate in Saipan, said opportunities for Filipino doctors and nurses at the four hospital in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), may be available in the medical facility's two-hour rush evacuation and down-sized staff.

Flattening the report added that due to the gloomy economic situation in the CNMI, the CHC may not have the financial capacity to hire new medical workers.

"Due to the current economic situation, Saipan, the capital of CNMI, may not be a viable destination for medical workers, as may other skills categories for that matter," the report said.

The report further said there was a virtual standstill in CHC operations but as of latest declaration of a shutdown of operations for four months announced. Actual closure and cessation of services and personnel, however, pointed to a standstill in the facility, according to the DOLE.

Flora G. Sorino

FLY DELTA FROM US$350

Book at delta.com, call Delta reservations at 841-6800 or contact your travel agent today.

Round-trip Economy Class Travel from Manila to :	Fares* from (in USD)
Tokyo (Narita), Nagoya	$350
San Francisco	$615
Honolulu, Los Angeles	$650
Seattle, Las Vegas	$690
New York (JFK, LGA)	$820
Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, New York (EWR), Washington, D.C.	$890
Boston, Orlando	$990

Purchase your ticket before October 31 (for flights to the U.S.) or November 30, 2012 (for flights to Japan) to enjoy this offer! Travel from Manila to the U.S. must commence on or before December 15, 2012; or to Japan by November 30, 2012.

Looking for greater legroom and more recline than Economy class seats? Now you can enjoy Economy Comfort™ between Manila and Japan for as low as $40 or the U.S. for as low as $160 per way!*. Select your seat at the My Trip section on delta.com

DELTA

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

PLUS! Personal Training and all the Latest Activities!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

CORE POWER + BIOMETRICS with GREAT SKIN

"I lost 25 lbs. & still a Great Body after 10 years."
-Marc Dungo
Mr. Great Bodies Champion

Get a lean and sexy body with great skin!

- ✓ toned arms
- ✓ firm abs and thighs
- ✓ tight butt
- ✓ sexy legs

- Krystal Pelomiana
Ms. Great Bodies Philippines
[illegible] Finalist

ALL OUR FULL PROGRAMMES ARE GUARANTEED!

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!!

- NO MONTHLY DUES OR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (75466377)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph • inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

Moro leaders set foot on 'seat of oppression'

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

FOR YEARS, Moro rebel leader Ghadzali Jaafar looked on Malacañang as the "seat of Moro oppression."

The Palace by the Pasig River symbolized the enemy he mustered 40,000 men to fight.

"It is there where the actions and decisions of the Philippine state emanates," Jaafar told this reporter on the bus ferrying him and his colleagues in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to Malacañang for yesterday's signing of the framework agreement creating the Bangsamoro political entity.

Little did he know that he would set foot on the ancient home of the "commander" in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines the MILF guerrillas had been battling to liberalization.

"I never imagined then that we would be in the corridors of the seat of power of the Philippine state," Jaafar said.

Like his MILF colleagues, Jaafar's visit to Malacañang was his first.

This visit by the senior Jaafar and eight other senior members of the MILF marked a silent sweat of the door as the country that hitched them from the Jaafari Hotel was running on the road in Midsandang, escorted by Presidential Guards and police escorts.

Jaafar's elation would only be broken by the heavyweight questions but after answering them, he would fall silent again.

Also on the bus, Mohagher Iqbal, the MILF chief negotiator appeared to be in pensive mood.

But even if they were not talking, hope was visibly etched on their faces.

MILF chief Murad Ebrahim was in the lead vehicle, a BMW of the convoy leading for the Palace.

One can only guess what was on the minds of the MILF leaders during the 20-minute trip for most of them were later seen bent speaking in Magindanaonese, albeit the topic was not clear.

Arriving at Malacañang around 11:35 a.m., the MILF leaders in their modern-armed uniforms were met by Malacañang protocol officers.

Murad was met by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles while government chief negotiator Marvic Leonen welcomed Iqbal.

The two chief negotiators then hailed Jaafar his silence and exchanged pleasantries with Leonen.

'Peace is within reach'

From page A1

They shook hands, ushering in what Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak described as "a new beginning for the people of Mindanao."

After four decades of conflict, "peace is within reach," Najib said.

And the government and the Moro rebels, courting over 40 years of hostilities, took their first step toward ending the insurgency in Mindanao that had cost the lives of more than 150,000 people and ordained the resource-rich island into the poorest region of the Philippines.

The government and the MILF signed a framework agreement to end the war and build a new autonomous region in Mindanao, to be called Bangsamoro, in the Palace yesterday afternoon.

President Aquino, Murad and Iqbal, whose country brokered the peace talks between the Aquino administration and the MILF, looked on as chief government peace negotiator Marvic Leonen and his counterpart from the MILF Mohagher Iqbal, signed the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro.

On hand to signify the Islamic world's acceptance of the agreement was Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the world's second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations.

The ceremony held at Malacañang's Kalaw Hall was attended by about 2,000 guests, including government officials, diplomats and representatives of countries that made up the International Contact Group, the International Monitoring Group, and aid organizations that accompanied the two negotiating teams between the government and the Muslim rebels.

President Aquino, in his keynote speech, said the agreement sealed "genuine, lasting peace in Mindanao," which the government is determined to obtain before the end of his term in 2016.

"To all those of the Filipino people, and esteemed guests from our friends from different parts of the world, we commit to peace—a peace that will be construed through democratic means; a peace that heals and empowers; a peace that recognizes the many nationalities of the Filipino people, and assures them time is ripe, national aspiration for equitable progress," Mr. Aquino said.

Prime Minister Najib said the agreement would "protect the rights of the Bangsamoro people and preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines."

"We are men and leaders who want to make a difference and we have decided that the time has come for us to choose the moral high ground," Najib said.

The framework pledged the MILF's decommission to release the guns to allow peace and development to come to Mindanao after 40 years.

"I come in peace," Murad said, admitting that it was his first time to set foot in Malacañang, the seat of power in the Philippines.

"We have inked the most important document in the chapter of our history"—a landmark document that restores to our people their Bangsamoro identity and their homeland, their right to govern themselves, and their power to forge their destiny and future with their own hands," Murad said.

"Today we are here to celebrate the victory of the Bangsamoro people and the Filipino nation that is shared by the international community and the Muslim world, the victory sweet not by war but by collective desire to restore justice and peace to a troubled land," he said.

Murad then extended "the hand of friendship and partnership to the President and the Filipino people as we have embarked on the historic journey to rebuild our home, institute justice and [end the] reign of evil, chaos and ruinous normalcy in the lives of the masses of our people in Mindanao and help build the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro."

The accord

The framework agreement, also called a road map to a final peace settlement that is expected by 2016, grants residents in Muslim-dense areas autonomy in exchange for ending their five-decade insurgency, which would bring peace and stability and eventually development in the region.

The 73-page document outlines general agreements on major issues, including the extent of power, revenues and territory granted to Bangsamoro, the new Muslim administrative region.

It calls for the establishment of a 75-member Transition Commission to draft a law creating Bangsamoro. The draft law will be submitted to Congress for adoption, then submitted to the people of Mindanao for approval in a plebiscite.

The 12,000-strong MILF armed forces will be disarmed gradually "beyond war," the agreement says, without specifying a timetable.

Failed experiment

The agreement says Bangsamoro will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which President Aquino described as "failed experiment."

The ARMM was created by a 1996 peace agreement the government signed with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), but Mr. Aquino considered it a failure because it did not end the conflict, the rebels did not disarm and it did not improve the lives of Muslims.

Corruption, political violence and crimes such as kidnappings and extortion persisted, and the MILF continued to fight for self-rule.

Another preliminary accord was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2008 as unconstitutional because it would create a separate state.

Western governments have long worried over the presence of small numbers of al-Qaida-linked militants from the Middle East and southeast Asia seeking sanctuary among jihadist groups and militants with the Filipino insurgents.

One of those extremist groups, the Abu Sayyaf, is not part of any negotiations, but the hope is that the peace agreement will isolate its militants and deny them sanctuary and logistical support they had previously received from rebel commanders.

One of those hardline commanders, Ameril Umra Kato, broke off from the MILF last year. Kato's forces attacked the Army in August, prompting an offensive that killed more than 50 fighters in the 200-strong rebel faction.

Kato rejects accord

Abu Misri Mamasak, a spokesperson for Kato's forces, on Sunday said that his group did not recognize the peace accord.

"That's a surrender," he said. "We won't retreat from our armed struggle and continue to aspire for a separate Muslim homeland that won't be a creature of politicians."

President Aquino acknowledged that much work remained to be done after the signing of the agreement.

"The devil is in the details," he said, but added that the government is committed to peace and development in Mindanao.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles added: government chief negotiator Marvic Leonen and rebel leader Iqbal broke the silence and exchanged pleasantries with Leonen.

Murad was met by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles while government chief negotiator Marvic Leonen welcomed Iqbal.

PEACE IN HIS TIME? Alinda Isa Jaira his sisters in their room prayer of the Bangsamoro Peoples in Manila on Monday during a rally in support of the preliminary peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"Today we have entered the course. Our perseverance has prevailed over those whose policies it is perpetuate wars and conflict in Mindanao and Sulu for personal aggrandizement," he said.

Culture of impunity

Mr. Aquino said that many had suffered from the path of vengeance and violence," but he promised to dismantle the culture of impunity in the country.

"I myself lost my father to an oppressive system," he said. "I myself shunned for justice, and was deprived of it than by the dictatorship. I empathize with our Bangsamoro brothers and sisters, and was only was to work as hard as I can to see that the culture of impunity is dismantled, and that the foundations for true governance and cooperation are laid."

And he gave a promise to the Muslims of Mindanao: "We will give our people value is truly the basic A charter to direct their lives toward advancement in a democratic, peaceful and safe society." With reports from Nikko Dizon, AP and AFP

P-Noy peace drive part of parents' 'continuing journey'

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT Aquino's dogged determination to end the Moro rebellion within his term is part of what Malacañang dubbed as "a continuing journey" started by his parents.

Thus, the signing of the framework agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday took on another dimension as it would close the loop for the President to complete the unfinished business of his parents in Mindanao before his term ends in 2016.

The historical significance of the new accord was not lost on MILF chief Murad Ebrahim, who acknowledged in his speech at Malacañang the President's sincerity to finding a peaceful resolution to the 40-year Moro war for independence.

"Today we are here to put an end to the adversarial relationship between the Bangsamoro people and the Philippine government, and what makes this more significant and quite touching on our part is that this is happening under the administration of President Noynoy Aquino," Murad said, eliciting applause from the audience gathered at Kalaw Hall of Malacañang.

Murad recalled that the President's assassinated father, Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., and mother, the late President Corazon "Cory" Aquino, "fought on the same side of the fence with us against the dictatorship that devastated our homeland and engulfed the lives of thousands of our people."

'Never again'

Borrowing the "never again" campaign battle-cry of Corazon Aquino in the snap elections in 1986, Murad said, "We pray never to see again refugee camps crowded with old folks, women and children suffering in squalor and misery, as well as never again witness the worrying silverhoods violation of human rights that come with oppression, all of which define the landscape of our Bangsamoro homeland and dominate the lofty human values long held by a civilized and just society."

He dedicated the agreement to the late MILF leader Hashim Salamat and other Moro fighters, "who lived and died for MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front), for the cause of Allah and for the Bangsamoro."

"To them and to all the peacelovving people in this country, this agreement is for you. We are not going to forget you," he said.

He called on the MILF faithful to "be vigilant to support this agreement.

"Make this historic journey with us to rebuild our Bangsamoro homeland," said Murad, after Ebrahim reached the new accord at a roll-out.

"This is not the time for recrimination. This is the time for unity, the time for all of us to think, act and speak as one Bangsamoro as we summon all our strength to face the daunting task of home rule," Murad added.

Family mission

In a statement issued ahead of the signing of the framework deal, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) noted that finding a lasting solution to the Moro rebellion was the "mission" of the Aquino clan.

OPAPP called this peace mission "a continuing journey."

In 1966, the President's father, Ninoy Aquino, started this journey when he exposed on the Senate floor the "Jabidah massacre" (which claimed the lives of at least 28 Muslim army recruits.

Senator Ninoy had demanded justice for the mass murder of Muslim recruits who had recently undergone commando training on Corregidor Island.

Quoting unnamed accusers, the Opapp said that the "leading suspect as part of a plot by President (Ferdinand) Marcos is Jibrian Sahab (Malaysia), against the people (him to have) against the government, and national consolidation in the Philippines. When the trainees refused, they were summarily shot."

That singular event triggered the Moros to press for independence in May of 1968 and eventually take up arms in 1972, the year the MNLF was founded by Nur Misuari.

President Aquino acknowledged that much work remained to be done after the signing of the agreement.

"The devil is in the details," he said, but added that the government is committed to peace and development in Mindanao.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles added: government chief negotiator Marvic Leonen welcomed Iqbal.

Murad was met by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles while government chief negotiator Marvic Leonen welcomed Iqbal.

Staying the course

In his speech, Murad reminded everyone of the roots of the Moro liberation struggle.

"Never in my wildest dream since I was a child, or when I joined the Bangsamoro struggle more than 40 years ago, that one day I will see the sunrise of this budding Bangsamoro," Murad said, bouncing his arms and Americans governors governor, and now the Presidency of the Philippines," Murad said.

"Today ... we have entered the course. Our perseverance has prevailed over those whose policies it is perpetuate wars and conflict in Mindanao and Sulu for personal aggrandizement," he said.

Culture of impunity

Mr. Aquino said that many had suffered from the path of vengeance and violence," but he promised to dismantle the culture of impunity in the country.

"I myself lost my father to an oppressive system," he said. "I myself shunned for justice, and was deprived of it than by the dictatorship. I empathize with our Bangsamoro brothers and sisters, and was only was to work as hard as I can to see that the culture of impunity is dismantled, and that the foundations for true governance and cooperation are laid."

And he gave a promise to the Muslims of Mindanao: "We will give our people value is truly the basic A charter to direct their lives toward advancement in a democratic, peaceful and safe society." With reports from Nikko Dizon, AP and AFP

Yellow victory

At his speech yesterday, Mr. Aquino admitted that he was criticized for "supposedly devoting more time to Mindanao" by meeting with a rebel group.

But in an explanation that earned the President applause, he recalled that he had "applauded the meeting with Chairman Murad as a fellow Filipino, not as combatants with opposing ideologies for the attainment of the aspirations of our people. This mindset, I am certain, pervaded throughout the negotiating process and our respective panels. We must all share in the triumph of this framework agreement," the President said.

"Now is the time for us to look forward to finding solutions to the challenges that lie ahead," he said.

"So many challenges await us, but the bridge of trust that spans this room is strong. The dark days of conflict are behind us, however difficult they may be," Ochoa said.

Staying the course

In his speech, Murad reminded everyone of the roots of the Moro liberation struggle.

"Never in my wildest dream since I was a child, or when I joined the Bangsamoro struggle more than 40 years ago, that one day I will see the sunrise of this budding Bangsamoro," Murad said, bouncing his arms and Americans governors governor, and now the Presidency of the Philippines," Murad said.

"Today ... we have entered the course. Our perseverance has prevailed over those whose policies it is perpetuate wars and conflict in Mindanao and Sulu for personal aggrandizement," he said.

Culture of impunity

Mr. Aquino said that many had suffered from the path of vengeance and violence," but he promised to dismantle the culture of impunity in the country.

"I myself lost my father to an oppressive system," he said. "I myself shunned for justice, and was deprived of it than by the dictatorship. I empathize with our Bangsamoro brothers and sisters, and was only was to work as hard as I can to see that the culture of impunity is dismantled, and that the foundations for true governance and cooperation are laid."

And he gave a promise to the Muslims of Mindanao: "We will give our people value is truly the basic A charter to direct their lives toward advancement in a democratic, peaceful and safe society." With reports from Nikko Dizon, AP and AFP

Yellow victory

At his speech yesterday, Mr. Aquino admitted that he was criticized for "supposedly devoting more time to Mindanao" by meeting with a rebel group.

But in an explanation that earned the President applause, he recalled that he had "applauded the meeting with Chairman Murad as a fellow Filipino, not as combatants with opposing ideologies for the attainment of the aspirations of our people. This mindset, I am certain, pervaded throughout the negotiating process and our respective panels. We must all share in the triumph of this framework agreement," the President said.

"Now is the time for us to look forward to finding solutions to the challenges that lie ahead," he said.

"So many challenges await us, but the bridge of trust that spans this room is strong. The dark days of conflict are behind us, however difficult they may be," Ochoa said.

Staying the course

In his speech, Murad reminded everyone of the roots of the Moro liberation struggle.

"Never in my wildest dream since I was a child, or when I joined the Bangsamoro struggle more than 40 years ago, that one day I will see the sunrise of this budding Bangsamoro," Murad said, bouncing his arms and Americans governors governor, and now the Presidency of the Philippines," Murad said.

"Today ... we have entered the course. Our perseverance has prevailed over those whose policies it is perpetuate wars and conflict in Mindanao and Sulu for personal aggrandizement," he said.

Culture of impunity

Mr. Aquino said that many had suffered from the path of vengeance and violence," but he promised to dismantle the culture of impunity in the country.

"I myself lost my father to an oppressive system," he said. "I myself shunned for justice, and was deprived of it than by the dictatorship. I empathize with our Bangsamoro brothers and sisters, and was only was to work as hard as I can to see that the culture of impunity is dismantled, and that the foundations for true governance and cooperation are laid."

And he gave a promise to the Muslims of Mindanao: "We will give our people value is truly the basic A charter to direct their lives toward advancement in a democratic, peaceful and safe society." With reports from Nikko Dizon, AP and AFP

'Power investors interested, but shortfall still looms'

By Amadeo Bagua
Inquirer Central Luzon

SAN JOSE CITY—In the demand for electricity in Metro Manila increases, at least seven Japanese firms are eyeing investments in the Philippine power sector, Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said.

Despite this piece of good news, Almendras said, Luzon is still facing a supply shortfall by 2015.

"There are certainly pieces of good news. But the bad news for us is that we will have a (short) fall in...(electricity) supply in Luzon," he said during the launch of the San Jose City I Power Corp. here on Friday.

He said the huge demand for electricity projected in the country, especially in Metro Manila, needed as many investors as the government could attract to satisfy that demand.

Demand to meet

He did not give details about the Japanese firms, however, that had expressed interest in investing in power generation here.

Almendras at the same time allayed fears about a (short) fall in power supply this year.

He said the demand for electricity could still be met adequately until 2014. But, "I am very worried (about the shortfall) in 2015," he added.

"We still be needing an additional 600 megawatts of electricity in 2015 in Luzon. We should start building facilities for power generation now."

The Department of Energy, he said, is considering putting up a coal-fired power plant near the much-hailed Balatan Coal Fired Power Plant in Morong, Bataan.

Supply shortage

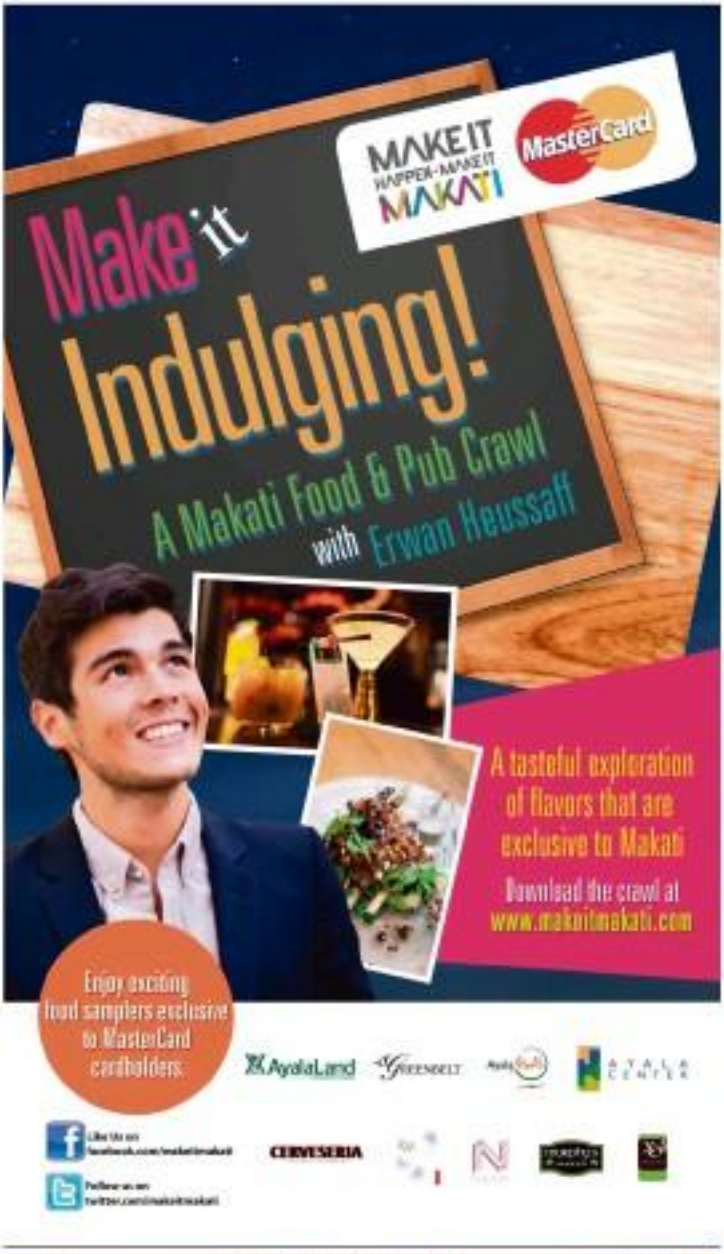
As for Mindanao, Almendras lamented that not many investors in electric power generation had been coming because of the uncertainty of law and order on the island.

He said he hoped that this could be reversed with the government's efforts to purge power with Moro rebels.

Almendras, during the opening of the power plant, appealed to investors to consider Mindanao, which is experiencing an electricity supply short age.

'Good example'

"We need investors like you. We need this kind of (project) which you are putting up here to serve this (short-fall in electric power supply)" he said. The San Jose City I Power Corp. was put up by 21 rice millers here and other businessmen in cooperation with a private investor to generate 9.9 megawatts of electricity using a rice hull-powered power plant. The group pooled P1 billion in capital for the project. "Your example here is a good model. You are a group of diverse people and you invested a big sum of money for power generation. I hope we can invite many more like you to invest in power generation to help solve our impending problem," Almendras said.



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday - October 16, 2012
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial: Margaret Mary Alacoque
1st Reading: Gal5:1-6

Christ freed us to make us really free. So remain firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. I, Paul, say this to you: if you receive circumcision, Christ will no longer help you. Once more I say to whoever receives circumcision: You are now bound to keep the whole Law. All you who pretend to become righteous through the observance of the Law have separated yourselves from Christ and have fallen away from grace.

As for us, through the Spirit and faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. In Christ Jesus it is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision that matters; what matters is faith working through love.

Gospel: Luke 11:37-41

As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to have a meal with him. So he went and sat at table. The Pharisee was astonished who Jesus did not first wash his hands before dinner. But the Lord said to him, "So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are full of greed and evil. Fools! He who made the outside, also made the inside. But instead, as to you, by the generous giving of alms, everything is made clean."

Reflection

When we censure/reprove others by our goodness, we try other ways of improving them, and so we enter a world of lies and pretense. We try to distract them from our real condition by becoming critics/leaders. We need to believe in them for ourselves. By not knowing the 'real' from the fake, the cleans from the unclean. Then, the more we concentrate on the outside, the more fake becomes the inside. The stuff that went into the making of the Pharisees is universally available.

Nur: It's a recipe for another big, big war in Mindanao

"THIS framework agreement is the world's a recipe for another big, big war in Mindanao," Nur Misuari said.

"Can my throat if Duljo Misuari can ensure peace in Mindanao," Misuari said, referring to Manuel Roxas, chair of the MILF, who witnessed the signing of the framework accord in Malacañang yesterday with President Aquino and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Misuari, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) that signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996, continued to rant yesterday against a new peace accord.

The MILF, he said, is "so unpopular in Mindanao."

He claimed many MILF members removed in the MILF because they, too, were upset about the framework agreement for the creation of a new autonomous region in Mindanao, to be called Bangsamoro.

Misuari's extreme pessimism came in sharp contrast to cautious optimism of most Muslims in Mindanao and the guarded optimism of the Catholic Church that ground the signing in Malacañang yesterday of the preliminary peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

1996 peace deal

But the chair of the MNLF Central Committee lauded the signing of the framework agreement.

"The signing of the government's agreement with the MILF proved that our decision to enter the 1976 Tripoli Agreement was the right thing to do," Muslimin Sema, vice mayor of Cotabato City, told the Inquirer by phone.

Sema, however, wanted to know how the new agreement would harmonize with the 1996 peace deal with the MNLF.

The answer will come when the Transition Commission begins work on the creation of the Bangsamoro, which will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The government and the MILF have offered the MNLF seats on the commission so it could participate in the work toward a final peace agreement.

The World Bank welcomed the signing of the peace deal, which, it said, marks an important step toward achieving peace, security and development that would benefit all Filipinos.

Bank's work sessions to be done to turn the framework agreement into a final peace agreement and, more important, to translate it into security and prosperity for the people of Mindanao, particularly the Bangsamoro, the World Bank said in a statement.

MILF knows best

Hermie Mangilidan, mother of two MILF fighters whose father died fighting for a More homeland in Mindanao, welcomed the peace deal with the Aquino government.

"Independence would have been the best solution to our problem, to our poverty, to our being less developed, and I am convinced it remains the best solution," Mangilidan said.

"The MILF is our official representative in finding peace in our homeland," she added. "What is good for us is best left to our leaders."

Consultations urged

Catholic bishops in Mindanao said they were maintaining "vigilant optimism" on the new peace agreement.

"We believe that continuing consultations with all stakeholders are necessary to bring the peace process forward," a group of bishops in Mindanao said in a joint statement issued yesterday.

The statement was signed by Bishops Guillermo Afable of Davao del Sur, Colin Bagaforo of Cotabato, Jose Cabantan of Marbel, Edwin de la Peña of Marawi, Jesse Dimalo of Oroquieta, Clemente Sabido of Tagum, Dinualdo Gutierrez of South Cotabato, Martin Jumoad of Basilan, Antonio Ledesma of Cagayan de Oro and Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato.

The prelates said that while they welcomed the peace deal, it is not the end of peace building efforts in Mindanao.

"Further it is just the beginning of much hard work in concretizing the meaning of diversity, security, sensitivity, solidarity, spirituality, and sustainability in our various communities in Mindanao," they said.

Muslims in Manila

In Manila, Muslims at the Golden Mosque in Quiapo said the framework agreement was long overdue.

"There had been agreements since I was little. Finally, there's an agreement giving the Bangsamoro people their own government," Aziz Macaraola, 27, said.

Nassria Cabilli, 45, said the Moros had been asking for a peace deal since the time of former President Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. "It had been still be peace," she said.

Alunsodar Lidasig, a resident in Quiapo, said the Muslims had waited long for this agreement.

The Cotabato Muslim Traders Association welcomed the preliminary peace agreement as a "step in the right direction."

Yusuf Malawani, president of the association, said the 2,000 members of the group saw the agreement as the beginning of an "achievable peace" to Mindanao.

Welcome to military

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) praised the government and MILF peace panels for climbing the preliminary peace agreement.

Col. Arnulfo Burgos Jr., AFP spokesperson, said the signing of the agreement was a "concrete example" of the principles embodied in the military's anti-insurgency campaign. Reports from Nikko Dizon, Marlon Ramos, Jerome Aning, Philip Sinpeng and Rina Jimenez-D. Gruenal in Manila; and Julie Alipala, Gerweline Lozarita, Tito Fiel and Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

'Allahu Akbar!' rings in Darapanan

From page A1

they told the brazers. "Everyone was happy that both parties reached an agreement. I cried out of joy."

Mohammad Yusuf, the camp commander, said the mood was celebratory.

As President Aquino spoke, some people clapped and chanted. But Abeg Kasan and the other fighters in formation stood in silence and listened.

When it was announced that the signing ceremonies had ended, the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) members locked arms and sang a solidarity song in Arabic. Most wept before saying a silent prayer of thanks.

Wielding a 30-cal. Barrett sniper's rifle, the 21-year-old was among some 2,000 MILF warriors who lined up in formation as early as 7 a.m. in the camp, 2 km from the national highway but covered by trees, bilugs, houses, and civilian supporters. They patiently waited for developments toward the signing of the preliminary accord in the national government's seat of power.

Like his comrades in the BIAF, they listened intently to a loudspeaker hooked up to a radio broadcast of the Malacañang event on a stage decorated in bright colors of gold, green and yellow.

The MILF flag was raised.

When Murad began to speak, some guerrillas shed tears under the scorching afternoon heat but maintained their composure. The elder once kept silent as if remembering the years of the rebellion they have been waging for decades.

As the audience in Malacañang clapped in between Murad's lines, Abor said his colleagues raised their fingers and joined the Arabic "takbir" (chant) of "Allahu Akbar!"

"Now we have seen the fruit of our struggle," Abor said. He said he joined the BIAF only four years ago but he knew the Moro people were struggling hard for self-determination.

Another fighter, Ismael Kasan, 36, said he was just a boy when then President Joseph Estrada declared an all-out war against the MILF in 2000. But he said he knew of the many sufferings the guerrillas endured during that time, which was why he could not hold back his tears when the framework agreement was signed.

He thought about those who died in the rebellion. "They did not see the coming of this day," he said.

Davao show of solidarity

At about 4 p.m., the MILF fighters and their supporters partook of the food they had prepared before dispersing.

The show of solidarity also took place in Davao City. Some 200 Muslims belonging to the Kalagan tribe converged in a rally at Freedom Park and were joined by Muslim businessmen who were shut down their shops in deference to the events.

The women wear green hijabs while the men came in green shirts or ribbons. They also brought green flags and the United Nations for giving its support to the peace process.

Although the agreement does not have a direct impact on the Moro people of Davao, Imam Hamidan Dimpas from the Moro community in Cubilo in the island Garden City of Samal said he was happy for the Muslims and the entire Bangsamoro.

A Kalagan leader, Ormalaan Gracon, 61, said he acknowledged that the peace deal did not automatically spell betterment for the Moro people.

"This is just the first step. The success will depend on the Moro people. We must work on it," she said.

The actual process are near Mindanaoans had a festive mood as hundreds of Muslims held a peace rally to welcome the signing of the framework agreement.

Members of Muslim civil society groups, some of whom had joined the peace caravan from Mindanao, held a concert and vigil on Sunday night at the foot of Don Chino Roces Bridge in Manila.

"We have a long way to go but what is important is we started on the right footing by recognizing the Bangsamoro identity," Arab Mindanao leader Bill Dales Buranen said in a statement. With reports from Jeoff Maitem in Davao City and Erika Sauler in Manila

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE Members of the Muslim community arrive at Rizal Park-Malacañang for the historic signing of the framework peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

A WOMAN Rushes the peace sign at the foot of Mendiola Bridge where Muslims peacefully wait for the announcement of the ending of the landmark peace pact.

Heavy fire prompts Recto to quit sin tax job

From page A1

would not be with me."

The three executive officials were among those who visited a hotel after Recto announced that his report would raise only P35 billion in additional sin tax revenue from liquor and tobacco.

Malacañang wanted P60 billion to additional revenue from sin taxes to finance Health Undersecretary of the Senate Finance committee, said this projected amount had already been factored in the proposed 2013 national budget.

'Lobby money'

Recto also complained about insinuations that the report was the fruit of lobby money that allegedly flowed into the chamber.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile has asked for an investigation of this allegation. He stated that it was Presidential Legislative Liaison Office head Manuel Roxas, to who was quoted by the business as saying that "big lobby money" was the reason no other sin tax measure had been approved for the past 15 years.

Manila was also quoted as saying that a legislator who voted against suppose the "purchase" sin tax measure "is only pro to suspicion that he has received lobby money or that he was bribed by the lobby groups of big multinationals."

Punching bag

"I am the natural punching bag of the week," Recto began his speech yesterday afternoon.

"I am not hurt if my critics condemn me. But I will be lying if I will say that I am not affected by the unfounded accusations of my friends in the executive department," he added.

Recto said Manila's insinuations meant "you know that the town is gone."

False data

"If one day you hear on radio that a ranking revenue official uses false data, augmentpe-to-us ratios," the senator said.

Recto said the official argued that the government was spending P355 billion yearly to fund medical services for four deadly diseases caused by smoking.

The senator said he went to check this detail to "budget documents" and found out that the national and local governments, and government corporations would spend P69.7 billion for medical care for three diseases this year and P66.1 billion in 2013.

"Worse, the good communication's erroneous data have been repeated, retweeted and retold and have been used as a main bolster against the bill," Recto complained.

The senator said a statement attributed to the Department of Health said it did not care if collections from sin taxes fell as long as the incidence of smoking was reduced.

"If that is the case, a measure banning smoking should have been proposed and heard by the (Senate) health committee instead of making this a taxation issue. If a substance kills, we do not tax it, it should be banned. Tax does not detoxify a product," he said.

Recto then warned his group on the Department of Finance, revealing that its officials once insisted that the government could only spend P1.85 billion for health care, instead of the P68 billion officially proposed by Malacañang.

Which brought the senator to note: "If you raise that amount, you will have to still more unhealthy products that will cause more illnesses and deaths."

Recto added that the P68-billion revenue target was already the 2007's "most optimistic assumption because its officials admitted that P42 billion annually was the most it can spend."

The senator said that during his meetings with DOF officials, "they have raised the ruler flag on that projection as unachievable. Ah, there were member crunchers if this is true. But until now they insist on a measure of P68 billion."

"Even some of our friends at the house (of Representatives) are rehiring that demand. They've screwed the request that are in the House restore the cuts that they've made. This made me think, if congressmen have shaved P30 billion from proposed revenues, why are they asking the Senate to put it back?" Recto said.

Scapegoat

The senator said that even if the Senate raised the projected sin tax revenue to P68 bil. "but as a compromise, he, instead of the majority and minority committee, would remain a scapegoat.

"I am stepping aside and relinquishing my position to a senator who can better fight for what the Department of Finance wants," he added.

"Historically, the journey toward a new tax law is always undertaken by the Senate chair of the ways and means committee and the DOF ruling in tandem. What the emerging situation now is that my position is no longer in synch with my supposed principals," Recto said.

"Because I am now seen as an obstruction and viewed with suspicion, then I have to take myself out of the equation... My friends in the Senate community should be disabused of the mistaken belief that the person they are accompanying appears to be backstabbing them," the senator said.

"This will also spare my friends in the DOF and the DOH of having to talk to each one of (the senators) to maintaining their version's support and sponsorship. My resignation will also earn a perceived anomaly by political partisans who treat my criticism of an administration measure as a betrayal of my duties as a Liberal Party senator," he added.

Still, Recto pointed out that some lobby groups were being funded by "the foundations (of) Mayor (Mike) Bloomberg of New York City with the mandating order to agitate for the imposition of New York City tax rates on the likes of Batasan Matanda."

Recto later said there was a Bloomberg-initiative group campaign, started in 2005, "to support purposes for tobacco-control interventions."

Ansbert Lidot Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

THE MARINE theme park Ocean Adventure is a major tourist draw at the Subic Bay Freeport. Animal trainers at the park guide visitors during their encounters with dolphins. ROBERT ZAMORA/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

They only need one vote to win in 2013 elections

By Aries Ray Pal
Inquirer Visayas

BORACAY CITY—Only one vote is needed to win in next year's elections for some candidates who are running unopposed in Negros Oriental.

Mayor Reynero "Jonjo" Uy of Mabinay town and his vice mayoral candidate, Emmelie "Pekoy" Baldoza of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) is unchallenged. Mabinay is a third-class municipality (annual income: P105 million-P65 million) with a voting population of 34,116 in 32 barangays.

Three other vice mayoral candidates are unchallenged. They are Jose "Bacchus" Cardenas (Liberal Party) for Guihulngan City, Alexander Taballa (LP) of Bacong town, and Marianne Coralde (Nacionalista Party) of Valladolid town.

Some towns and cities would have mayors and vice mayors belonging to the same family and running in the 2013 polls.

In Canlaon, former Mayor Judith Cantemar (United Nationalist Alliance) wants to reclaim the mayoral post with her son, Jose Jr. (LP) as running mate.

In Guihulngan City, Mayor Vicente Reyes is now aspiring to become vice mayor while his son, Eddie, is running to take his place. Both are LP candidates.

Mayor Reynaldo Tumlos (LP) of Jimalalud town is also willing to become vice mayor and be succeeded by his daughter, Hazel T. Billoso.

Another Mayor (brother-in-law Ma. Cris) is seeking reelection with his brother, Gino, as running mate. Both belong to the Nationalist People's Coalition.

As of August, registered voters in Negros Oriental numbered 698,107, lower than the 714,761 in the May 14, 2013, elections. Provincial election supervisor Eddie Ilos explained that the decline was due to a Commission on Elections (Comelec) move to delete the names of those who failed to vote in the last nine elections.

However, Ilos said the increase that the figure was expected to surpass the 2010 voting population because the deletion of names had already been stopped as the registration of new voters continued.

New voters have until Oct. 31 to register.

Marine park owner hits back at activists

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The filing of charges and the protests and other forms of publicity against marine park operators who engage in the display of marine animals are nothing more than fund-raising activities, an official of the marine theme park Ocean Adventure here said.

Last week, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC) issued a 72-hour temporary restraining order (TRO) against the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) officials.

The order prevents the government officials from issuing permits to transport 23 Solomon Islands dolphins to Singapore.

Says groups against dolphin export want publicity, funds

The petitioners were the Earth Island Institute (EII), Philippine Animal Welfare Society (Pawis) and the Compassion and Responsibility to Animals (Cora) Welfare Philippines.

Timothy Desmond, president of Ocean Adventure, said his company was holding the animals owned by Resorts World Singapore (RWS), but he declined to give other details, citing a nondisclosure agreement with RWS.

Desmond accused the petitioners of using the issuance of the protection order as a fund-raising mechanism. They "were out to extort money and damage us for their promotional activity," he said.

"This is a final effort by EII to try to block what is a legitimate transaction. They used that controversy to make their money. Their primary source of revenue is activist campaigns launched against legitimate public display [conducted like Ocean Adventure and Resorts World]," Desmond said.

Asked why the dolphins are in the Ocean Adventure, he said: "Typically when you do a new project, you don't bring animals directly to the facility. It takes awhile to stabilize them and the Resorts World facility is still under construction."

"[The dolphins were taken to Ocean Adventure] where we have a good, healthy place for the animals to live while their home is being completed," he said.

Desmond said the dolphins were being trained in a separate building. Facility and were not appearing in Ocean Adventure shows.

But the theme park denies more than 500,000 visitors each year, making it one of the biggest tourism operations in Central Luzon, according to Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority records.

Desmond said the display of the marine animals in Ocean Adventure "is conserved together by a theme of conservation of these animals." He declined to disclose the number of marine animals that the facility was keeping but said it has Pacific bottlenose dolphins, rough-toothed dolphins, beluga whales and sea turtles.

Ocean Adventure is also involved in the rescue of stranded marine animals in the area and has trained government workers and private organizations on the handling of these animals, he said.

Asked why the animals are not left in the wild, Desmond said, "It is because you won't see them and you won't learn from them...and as you won't miss them. The whole idea of public display—not just dolphins...any kind of animal—is that man needs a relevant love through which he can experience wildlife and nature in a setting that is safe for the animals and the people."

He said the dolphins in Ocean Adventure were being rescued for their final destination in Singapore, "where their research for taking care of these animals is just off the charts."

"And so this controversy is nothing but competing business interests of groups like EII and ourselves. It's just that they are really media-savvy organizations, which rely on publicity to make their money," Desmond said.

Police escorts of running local officials recalled

TACLOBAN CITY—Active policemen serving as escorts for local officials running in next year's elections in Eastern Visayas have been recalled by their superiors to help erase perceptions of partisanship by the Philippine National Police.

Supt. Jennifer Sompio, PNP regional information officer, announced that 52 policemen would return to their units. They were acting as security escorts to some mayors, governors and congressmen.

"We want to remain impartial [so], which means we will not give favor to any particular candidate," Sompio said.

Chief Supt. Elmer Soria, police regional director, initiated the recall move to ensure that the police organization would not be accused of favoring any particular candidate. He called on all the peaceful and fair conduct of the elections in Eastern Visayas.

But Sompio said the local officials could request for reconsideration of the order on the basis of urgent need for police security.

The PNP regional office has yet to come out with a list of areas that may endorse peace and order problems during the elections.

Possible flash points have been isolated in Samar, namely, Catubig, Basis Mutgarna and Calbiga City. Cases of election-related violence had occurred in those areas, according to Col. Romeo Labadan, commanding officer of the 801st Infantry Brigade based in Hinabangan, Samar. Jaye Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

Stop vigilante killings in Tagum, bishop urges

TAGUM CITY—Bishop Wilfredo Manlapaz of the Diocese of Tagum is rallying Catholics here to rise against summary executions perpetrated by vigilantes.

"We have been hearing reports about killings perpetrated by unknown persons, and for various motives, against hapless victims. The motives changed for human life has no scruples," Manlapaz said during Church-led rallyon Thursday.

Over 5,000 people attended the "Tikang sa Kalilaan (March for Peace)" rally here.

Manlapaz urged the city people to pressure government officials to act on the killings. For the past two months, 18 people have been killed, he said.

Investigators have pointed to gunmen "riding in tandem" and "motorcycle-riding assassins" as the perpetrators of the killings.

Some 3,000 people attended the "Tikang sa Kalilaan (March for Peace)" rally here.

Manlapaz urged the city people to pressure government officials to act on the killings. For the past two months, 18 people have been killed, he said.

Investigators have pointed to gunmen "riding in tandem" and "motorcycle-riding assassins" as the perpetrators of the killings.

Some vicarity as possible motives for the killings, according to Supt. Elmar Lambert, city police chief.

Lambert has vehemently denied the existence of a vigilante group called the Underground Death Squad. "Most of the killings appeared to be the work of gun-for-hire groups," he said.

The protesters also rocked the Oracle Emporium, a coffee-shop owned by Mayor Allan John Sourbon and members of the municipal council, said Insp. Rodrigo Lim, acting police chief of Tagum.

Among is running against Sourbon's mother, Elenita, in the mayoral race. Lim said, her "them is also chance that Baguio's killing is election-related." He said the local dispute might also be being ruled out.

Police produces were studying if the killing could be related to Baguio's job as bookkeeper and the information he might have revealed to people.

"Although he was a bookkeeper, he was not among those included in the charges filed by Comag," Lim said. Baguio had been a permanent municipal employee and had no political affiliations, he added.

Lim said "the killing of Baguio could have been timed with the week of filing of certificates of candidacy so it would appear election-related."

Authors confirmed that he was being accused of diversion and grave misconduct in connection with the irregular disbursements of funds for the construction of an "interactive building" in Esperanza. He said, however, that he and the other officials had already filed motions with the office of the Ombudsman and were confident of winning the case.

"The [Commission on Audit] personnel who personally came here to investigate the charges found out nothing anomalous," the mayor said in a phone interview.

He said he had nothing against Baguio and the employee had even asked him to be a godfather to his daughter a month ago.

Job angle eyed in killing of municipal bookkeeper

By Jessa Calubiz Babas
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MAHAYAG CITY—A municipal bookkeeper killed last week might have disclosed sensitive information that led to the filing of charges of dishonesty and grave misconduct in January against municipal officials of Esperanza, 130 kilometers south of this city, according to a police official.

Arno Baguio, 59, who was shot dead in Barangay Tungao, Esperanza, on Oct. 5, was a relative of Evelyn Comag, who had filed cases against Mayor Mac John Sourbon and members of the municipal council, said Insp. Rodrigo Lim, acting police chief of Esperanza.

Comag is running against Sourbon's mother, Elenita, in the mayoral race, Lim said, her "them is also chance that Baguio's killing is election-related," he said the local dispute might also be being ruled out.

Police produces were studying if the killing could be related to Baguio's job as bookkeeper and the information he might have revealed to people.

"Although he was a bookkeeper, he was not among those included in the charges filed by Comag," Lim said. Baguio had been a permanent municipal employee and had no political affiliations, he added.

Lim said "the killing of Baguio could have been timed with the week of filing of certificates of candidacy so it would appear election-related."

Authors confirmed that he was being accused of diversion and grave misconduct in connection with the irregular disbursements of funds for the construction of an "interactive building" in Esperanza. He said, however, that he and the other officials had already filed motions with the office of the Ombudsman and were confident of winning the case.

"The [Commission on Audit] personnel who personally came here to investigate the charges found out nothing anomalous," the mayor said in a phone interview.

He said he had nothing against Baguio and the employee had even asked him to be a godfather to his daughter a month ago.

Father of Inquirer bureau chief dies

NESTOR Alcira Alcantara Sr., of Calbayan, Laguna, and Davao City, father of Inquirer Mindanao bureau chief Nico Alcantara, died yesterday in Davao City after a long battle with illness. He was 75 years old.

He is survived by his wife Elena, children Ana Leonora, Nico, Ani and Dos, and grandchildren Andi, Bandoy and Mel.

His body lies at St. Peter's Chapels in Panacan, Davao City.

Interment will be in the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 18, at Orchard Road cemetery in Davao City.

People's Choice
GOLD 2009
GOLD 2008
GOLD 2007
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
PLATINUM
PILOT
V SUPER COLOR
PERMANENT MARKER
No Skip. Stable writing. Replaceable ink
Available in Black, Blue & Red
Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. Paredes St., Binondo, Manila
PILOT CORPORATION

time for a holiday!
fares up to
35% off

hop on SEAIR to these great destinations

from manila domestic airport (terminal 4) to

iloilo from php 699*
kalibo (boracay) from php 774*
cebu from php 833*
puerto princesa from php 839*
tacloban from php 839*
bacolod from php 849*
davao from php 1349*

from clark to

kalibo (boracay) from php 799*
kota kinabalu from php 999*
hong kong from php 1099*
singapore from php 1999*
bangkok from php 2100*

other great offers

manila to singapore from php 2000*
cebu to singapore from php 2599*

sale ends tomorrow, hurry book now!

no fuel surcharge
airbus A320 family aircraft
cash payment at over 700 outlets

book on tigerairways.com

REMEMBERING A FOE: Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak lays a wreath of flowers at the Jose Rizal Monument at Rizal Park on Monday

A day of great hope, says Malaysian PM

From page A1

Kuala Lumpur offered Malaysia's assistance to make the agreement work.

"Today is a day of great hope. A day which marks the dawn of a new beginning for the people of Mindanao. A day when we welcome a troubled Philippines," Najib said before a crowd of diplomats, lawmakers and peace advocates at Rizal Hall in Malacañang.

"Out of the darkness comes a new light, albeit with an old name, Bangsamoro," he added, referring to the autonomous Moro homeland that the framework agreement sought to create.

Unwavering commitment

Najib praised President Aquino, whom he met earlier in the day in a bilateral meeting, for his "strong, unwavering commitment to an enabling peace" in Mindanao, and MILF chair Murad Ebrahim for his "personal courage for making the choice over conflict."

He also paid tribute to the negotiators, as well as the member countries of the International contact group and the international monitoring team observing the ceasefire in Mindanao since 2004.

"This agreement today because individuals were prepared to raise their eyes and look to a brighter future. Today we pay tribute to the quiet bravery of the negotiators," Najib said.

The prime minister described the framework agreement as a "firm ground on which a lasting peace" could be built.

It would protect the rights of the Bangsamoro people, as well as preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines, he said.

Najib said that it was Malaysia's hope that the agreement would give the Muslims a "homeland" again. "For Mindanao, there can be no more last generation," he said.

While saying that the framework agreement was "historic," he said it "doesn't solve all the problems."

"It sets the parameters in which a lasting peace may be found. I hope all sides continue to recognize their responsibilities in the coming months as they work toward a final peace agreement," he said.

Partner for peace

"This is a chance to restore dignity to the people of southern Philippines. Those deprived of humanity by decades of violence. A chance to ensure that the Bangsamoro people would enjoy the dividends of peace which they rightly deserve, and a chance for all sides to prove that peace and moderation are the hallmarks of all religions."

In view of the immensity of the work that awaits both sides, Najib said Malaysia was ready to help as the Philippines' partner of peace.

He said Malaysia was willing to offer training and education so the Bangsamoro children could aspire to a future that their parents could only dream of, build institutions and develop land so that former freedom fighters could reap the "harvest of peace."

"To all the people of the Philippines, we will stand with you to make this agreement work," he said.

"Today, something has changed. Today we turn our backs on violence, and turn instead toward a new and brighter future."He said "it's my hope that this agreement brings about a new time of understanding."

Najib said peace in Mindanao was within reach after four decades. "Let's grasp with both hands and never let go."

Red carpet welcome

MS. Aquino officially welcomed Najib to Malacañang ahead of the 1:30 p.m. signing of the framework deal, which Najib and a host of foreign delegates witnessed.

Arrival honors, including a 21-gun salute and traditional music by Philippine Marines, greeted the leader of Malaysia. After signing the guestbook, both leaders had a one-on-one meeting at the Music Room before an expanded bilateral meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

The President also hosted a luncheon in honor of Najib and his spouse, Rosmah Mansor.

Both leaders agreed that the visit was a "significant milestone" in bilateral relations and "signals a new phase of deeper and more robust ties between the two countries," said a joint statement issued by the Palace.

"The Malaysian government affirmed its support to the Philippine government's national socioeconomic programs, which are designed to foster border economic opportunities and jobs in Mindanao," the joint statement said.

"They also urged Malaysian and other foreign businessmen to consider investing in palm oil, natural rubber, the halal industry, infrastructure and other sectors in the region." With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and AFP

HOAD DONG: President Aquino receives a gong as gift from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chair Murad Ebrahim before the signing at Malacañang of a preliminary agreement to end decades of war in Mindanao. At left is MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal.

Now it's Sereno who misses flag rites at SC, goes to PNP's

By Christine D. Avendaño and Marlon Ramos

THIS TIME, it was Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno who skipped the regular Monday flag-raising ceremony at the Supreme Court.

Sereno chose instead to attend the flag rites at Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon City, where the PNP Legal Service was celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Sereno's absence was explained by court officials before the ceremony at the Supreme Court began at 8:30 a.m. and for the first hour, the officials also explained why some justices, like perennial absentee Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, were not around yesterday.

Carpio and Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo were on "official leave" while Associate Justice Jose Perez was on leave as well, the officials said.

Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes, on the other hand, was abroad, they said.

Only five justices attended the ceremony—Roberto Abad, Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Jose Mendoza, Presbitero Velasco and Martin Villarama.

Over at Camp Crame, Sereno lauded the PNP leadership for implementing reforms in the service to expedite the resolution of court cases.

"I'm very much heartened that your transformation program's overall reform objectives is for the entire criminal justice system to be able to provide speedy, impartial and accessible justice," the Chief Justice said.

She also cited the PNP's programs aimed at improving law and order in the country and the "delivery of public safety services within the context of an improved public trust and confidence in our criminal justice system."

"As part of the justice system myself, it is very encouraging to see these objectives, which are parallel to our own adjudicatory intentions, being implemented... by you, the main [law] enforcement arm of the government," Sereno said.

In her speech, she listed the judicial reforms she had started since assuming office in August, such as the "rule on judicial affidavits."

She said the new court rule, to be implemented early next year, "will allow the direct testimonies of police witnesses to be taken by way of affidavits."

This means that police officers who have to testify in court cases need not be physically present at the hearings, she said.

"We understand that every unnecessary hearing and every unnecessary postponement of a hearing involving the testimony of a police witness gives more time for criminals to terrorize our streets and less time for policemen to prepare and arrest them," she said.

The rule, however, would only apply to the direct testimonies of the police-witnesses, she said. "The police witnesses will still have to be present if the defense wishes to cross examine (them)."

"Some of the other reforms that we will implement will be in the same manner as the judicial affidavit rule to expedite trials so that the testimonies of witnesses need not go stale," she said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

The sooner the better

EDITORIAL

WE SAID it over two months ago: With the discovery by the Philippine Stock Exchange of potential price manipulation activities involving the shares of a particular listed company—and the turnover of such information and evidence to the corporate regulators—the ball is now in the court of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Critics of the PSE have described it as an "old boys' club" where the well-connected naturally make money while the rest of the investors lose their shirts in the "hype and dump" schemes of "players" (jockeys) who rig prices for their (and their friends') advantage. Even corporate regulators and the current crop of economic managers have called out the PSE leadership to clean up the stains by reforming the way the stock market is run.

Capital Markets Integrity Corp., an independent unit of the PSE, has been assigned to investigate certain participants' suspicious activities within the bourse. Eager to prove its doubters wrong, CMIC has thrown itself into the task of looking into potential stock market abuses with gusto. Suspected cases of stock market manipulation and insider trading have been detected, thanks to the group's state-of-the-art computer systems. This system, which came at no small cost, can detect potentially illegal patterns that are difficult to spot through manual observation.

CMIC has actually gone "above and beyond the call of duty." It has hired private investigators to follow the paper trail of one suspected stock manipulation case, which now looks increasingly like a case of money laundering.

But because CMIC is not empowered to prosecute suspected market abusers (a power reserved by the law for the corporate regulators), all the evidence it has gathered has been turned over to the SEC for the latter's action. And there lies the problem. It has been more than four months since the government corporate watchdog was apprised of this situation, and we have yet to see any concrete result.

In today's world of financial markets, where more money can make or break investors, let alone unsuspecting small players in the "retail" sphere, four months of inaction is an eternity. In four months, stock market manipulators and those involved in insider trading can make much more money. In four months, unsuspecting investors using their hard-earned cash can lose it all.

CMIC, despite having the approval of its operating license delayed for many months (by the SEC, no less), acted with dispatch when faced with a situation where it had to act against suspected violations by stock market stakeholders. And it continues to perform admirably, having provided the SEC the information to prosecute seven of the nine cases now being probed by the regulator, despite having to operate only on a provisional license.

We understand that, being a government agency, the SEC is understaffed and often has insufficient resources to go after every suspected violator in a timely manner. But given the ribbing that the PSE has suffered from reform-minded government officials, it is perhaps only appropriate that due attention be given by the government to rewarding exemplary behavior on the bourse's part.

For the Philippine economy to grow at a pace needed to lift more people out of the ranks of poverty, a well-oiled, transparent and dynamic stock market is critical. It is essential for helping investors allocate capital efficiently, whether to listed companies that will build more roads and bridges or to firms that will bring cheaper and faster Internet services to the countryside.

For this to happen, both the government and the private sector have to be on the same page, facing the same direction, acting with the same urgency toward reform.

Recently, we heard SEC Chair Teresita Herbosa announce that the regulator would complete its own investigation by the end of October. This is a welcome development, and the local and foreign investment communities are waiting to see whether the government side would actually put its money where its mouth is, especially since the PSE did the same four months ago.

And to be consistent with our earlier analogy, the ball is deep inside the SEC's court, so deep that it is now approaching the baseline, at risk of being dropped and going out of bounds, like all previous investigations concerning financial market abuses.

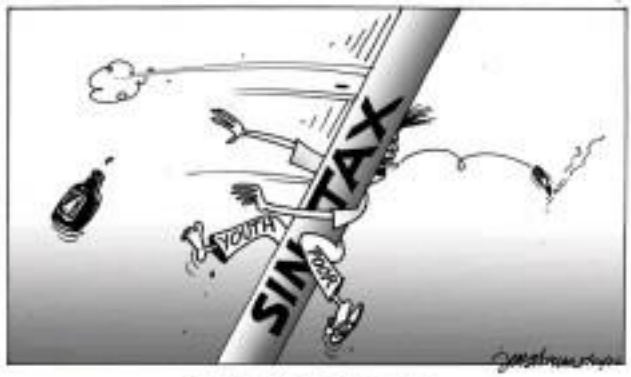
Action is needed, and the sooner the better.

Founding Chair: Eugenio D. Apostol

Editor in Chief: Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor: Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Opinion Editor: Rosalie A. Garcia-Ang
Associate Editors: Amando E. Doronila
News Editor: Artemio T. Engracia Jr. • Chief, Digital Operations: Nick B. Pichay
Chief, News Desk: Karen G. Kaimo
Photojournalism Editor: Pinky Jane D. Quiambao, Jr.
Senior Desk Editors: Juan F. Gamboa Jr.
Editorial Consultant: Antonio Zumel
Art & Design Director: Ernest A. Villadiego

Board Chair: Marixi R. Prieto
President: Raissa Ma. Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing: Rolando R. Rosario
Vice President for Advertising: Felix R. Olarte
Vice President for Sales, Print and Web: Grace R. Lara
Vice President for Finance: Jose M. Villarin
AVP for Circulation: Virgilio Augusto R. Chanco IV
Corporate Affairs Manager: Carmen R. Kalaw

Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. is not responsible for the views of its columnists, contributors and letter writers.



Burnt rice, anyone?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

MALANG TUYONG sa nang nagsipon, a Filipino proverb says. "There's no burnt rice to a hungry person."

Hunger anchors World Food Day (WFD), Oct. 16. The Philippines and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) member countries established WFD in 1979. Today 150 countries observe WFD.

WFD came after Henry Kissinger told the 1974 World Food Conference that "[within 10 years, no child would go to bed hungry." Today one out of every eight—12 percent of the world's population—is (food) short.

Political exotic dancers (WFD's message here, The European Union, the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (formerly the Organization of the Islamic Conference) welcomed the agreement on the framework for peace forged by government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front "to turn swords into ploughshares." But the aging Moro National Liberation Front and communist commissars threaten manifest. So do rebels like Umra Kato and gang.

Sen. Sotto Bores guessed a P66-billion "mission" prepared to a pittance of P13 billion. Its core notion is a subdivision of criticisms. Aid could siphon funds, in a bush-fresh meeting, provide Bicol's model of injured innocence.

Social Weather Stations' October report says 4.3 million households were hard put to get even three square meals. Over the past three months, 21 percent "experienced involuntary hunger, at least once."

"Moderate hunger"—having nothing to eat only once or a few times—surged. In crammed Metro Manila, overall hunger rose to 16 percent, its highest in two years. Decades of conflict rationed its potential as the nation's breadbasket.

Weather pattern distortions, continued post-harvest losses and growing populations interlocked with shrinking farmlands. These morphed into the "new geography of food insecurity," fearful policy (mis)steers know by rote.

Between 2007 and 2008, grain prices doubled. IRRI reported that prices bottled by a further 1.4 percent in September. "That left more people hungry than at any time in history."

An era of lifted generation had come to an end."

The rich (re-)merged their storms. But the poor spend 50-70 percent of skimpy incomes on food. They're long-assumed the last scrap of saving. They now skip meals.

In Cebu, 24 (re)mote of families go through fasdless days, a "Save the Children" survey found. More than half the people of Haiti are undernourished. The Global Hunger Index of 2012 identifies 20 countries saddled by "alarming" levels of hunger. Those include East Timor, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Burundi, Madagascar, Niger, Djibouti and Nepal.

Phnth's food reserves dwindled from 107 days of consumption to only 74 days in 2008. This triggered a "land rush," some call it, mainly China, South Korea, and Libya, were favorites, bought or leased land where they can grow food for themselves—in other countries.

Over 50 million hectares have been contracted for. International food Policy Research Institute estimates nearly $20 to $30 billion some to quiet by hirers off countries on land, Mostly in Africa.

Saudi Arabia (whose aquifers may last you, bought 'half a million hectares in Indonesia. South Korea signed a 99-year lease for 1.3 million hectares of agricultural land in Madagascar.

Other major destinations for land farmers are Ethiopia and the Ivac Sudans. Millions in these countries are mistaken with UN World Food Programme dependents.

Here: 41 one of every 100 infants have low weight at birth. Wasting and stunting (32 per cent) result when kids are starved by stunted, chronically malnourished mothers. Out of every 1,000 births here, 29 never make it to age 5. Today, the country is almost on par with the Democratic Republic in infant mortality rates. It lags behind Malaysia's 6. In an overall ranking of 193 countries, we're assigned at (for?) 97.

Worse, there (is) no unethical children indeed many of us with Mega syndrome. "Mine eyes glaze over." We're blind to the pain. We do not see Lazarus at the gate.

President Aquino's Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program eased some of hunger's core pain. CCT provides families with monthly grants of P1,400—provided they keep children in school, and have them vaccinated and enrolled in health programs. There are 3.08 million household beneficiaries.

World Bank, the Australian Agency for International Development and Asian Development Bank are providing additional support until 2015. That's when this program phases out.

Will we see then the frail men and women who still stoops of land or fish depleted waters for what they are? Only they can provide a permanent solution to hunger.

Ironically, they're bribed into subsistence treadmills by elite political dynamics. They're denied access to tools for production, but show off, a just share from their work. As a result, their lives are cramped by disease, lack of schooling and limited hope. It is disconcerting that those who profess food are often the ones who go hungry.

"Unless say our enabling of policies often confuses the problem of hunger with that of income, social injustice," the late National Economist Leonor Ubasb wrote. "They incite our moral conscience to feel pity instead of taking note. In such buttons, it was a simple case of old-fashioned greed. Avarice outmodified the betrayal of the weak."

"I pray this assessment is wrong," he added. "(Otherwise) we will have much to answer for from those whose lives and hopes were blighted by hunger."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@yahoo.com)

Completely different angle

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE PEOPLE who toiled through the night to get the air taxes passed have every reason to be pissed off at Judge Reyes. They can only feel stabbed in the back. The difference between P60 billion and P15 billion is vast; the fact being the revenue that would have been gotten from the original air tax bill and the second from Reyes's watered-down version of it. The people feel they have been screwed with protection being the health of the tobacco industry than that of his constituents is believable.

Juan Flavier, Pidel Ramos' brilliant health secretary and author of the campaign, "Yosi Kodet," puts it that, "The air tax bill as originally proposed would have saved us forward. Reyes's version keeps us all in the same place. There is a preponderance of evidence worldwide that higher taxes achieve two things: they reduce the incidence of smoking by raising prices, and they raise more revenue that we can hopefully plow into health care. If you water down the rates, the twin benefits are diminished."

I read the goals of the air tax, some of my good friends being among those who designed it. But I myself have misgivings about it. I find its goals, but I don't know that it is the best way to achieve them.

My first misgiving about it is that it's not just the tobacco companies that will have from the new taxes, the poor will too. They are the main consumers of cigarettes and liquor. The cigarette industry in the Islands of Yugoslavia and elsewhere that direct their opposition to the air taxes for being regressive are not without basis.

In fact, everyone considers so, even the advocates of the air taxes. But that is offset they say, since, for the health benefits to the poor, and, hey, the revenues that will be plowed back to fighting poverty, in that order of priority. That is my second misgiving. I'm not so sure it will produce the health benefits it foresees currently because it will raise revenues.

I can believe that raising the prices of tobacco and liquor will reduce the incidence of smoking in particular insofar as it would lower the rate of new smokers every year. But I can not believe, and have yet to see the studies that prove it, that raising prices will reduce smoking among those who are already smoking. It's like saying that higher prices for stocks will lessen dealer use.

That is neither extreme nor facetious. All the methods to help you quit smoking start with one proposition: Smoking is not a habit, it is an addiction. It is as much an addiction as taking drugs or booze, though arguably with far less immediate cataclysmic effects. That is why it is the hardest thing to quit, as any smoker will tell you. Which I can personally attest to, managing to do it once back in the early 1980s only after enduring the greatest nastiness. Raising the prices of cigarettes will not stop you from smoking, or reduce it. Only the fear of death will.

The premise of the air taxes is shaky. It assumes that people make rational choices under the most irrational circumstances. It postulates a smoker (or drinker) pondering his situation and concluding, "The prices of cigarettes (or liquor) have risen by 50 percent, I will now smoke (or drink) only half of what I used to." That reflects reality only about as much as the Marcoses reflect all that is true, good, and beautiful.

Are there other ways to curb smoking and raise revenues? Assuming we begin with that the revenues will be used to fight poverty and not just to win an election?

Yes.

As the revenue part goes, why tax the poor instead of the rich? Instead of cigarettes and liquor, why not tax to death Mercedes-Benzes and BMWs and other luxury cars? Why not tax to death yachts and private planes and second mansions? As an aside, I can't imagine anything more sinful than conspicuous displays of wealth in a metropolis that swims with cancer children and beggars.

As to stopping smoking, well, what is the biggest incentive to smoke and drink in this country and elsewhere? That is not the prices of cigarettes and liquor which may seem cheap to rich gatherers but are not so to the poor who purchase them. That is advertising, which conjures not just sensations of pleasure-tolerance but images of being cool (for cigarettes) and macho (for liquor).

The generation that came before mine was particularly into both, thanks to movies, books and magazines that glorified the habits of smoking and drinking. Thanks in particular to men like Humphrey Bogart, who was never without a cigarette in his mouth as he mouthed his lines in an iconic fingers-y way. He himself died from cancer of the esophagus from smoking. And it's a great story of the people he depicted on screen.

In the case of drinking, culture, more than the price of Tanduay or Emperador, is a more decisive influence. Tony binds having as the country's favorite pastime, bringing with it not just ignominies of drunkenness, but boldness along with the sense of well-being from alcohol, but the cultural reinforcement of being spa. There's an implicit contest in bars high you can rack up beer cases under your table to have bragging rights. "Game ka nang isang case," as the quip goes.

So why not use the same advertising tools, the courage smoking and drinking? If government is loath to use money for it, it can always get the advertising outfits to pitch in pro bono to run ads in the media and in billboards—the way they do in the United States—that aggressively puts the fear of God, as the Cebu Bishop, on smokers and drinkers? Recently the United States ran various ads on TV and the Internet showing young men and women with tubes in their throats and in horrendous states of debilitation after being ravaged by cancer in various parts of the body from smoking. If that doesn't make you quit, I don't know what will.

Well, I know high prices aren't.

Bangsamoro: hopes and thorns

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES tell us it is too early to rejoice unduly over the framework peace agreement recently signed between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The devil is in the details. Former Presidential Peace Adviser Jess Dureza warns. Former Regional Board of Investments Chair Mehol Mariano points out that projects for private investments are clouded by legal risks and uncertainties, as voters finally face for the very Bangsamoro entity will have to replace the Organic Act creating the nonexistent Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Senate President Franklin Philippine Country Observer Manuel Mamba believe that investors will wait until there is clarity in the final regular formalities, revenue and expenditure sharing arrangements between the national government and the autonomous Bangsamoro. Indeed, all these will be hard tests of the real intent of Bangsamoro's autonomy is flushed out. Some prefer to describe it as a land mine-ridden path, i.e., that a misstep in the detailed negotiations could still prove fatal.

Still, spirits are high and huge sighs ensued, as should be the case. Both sides need to proceed on the course with good faith and a positive outlook, anything less would be unconfident that modern in Muslim Mindanao and outsiders who know enough about the area and its people would affirm. But there is much more ground to be negotiated than otherwise, for voters with the broader interests of Muslim Filipinos at heart, better there of all Filipinos in turn, the way to go would be to capitalize and build on the positives, and work hard to address the negatives in the negotiation equation.

That's the bottom line for the Bangsamoro agreement. It has to translate into primary growth drivers for the entire Philippine economy, and I continue to insist so. It is quite doable, I suspect, in fact. We had already seen Mindanao's overall economic growth outpace the rest of the country for the entire Philippine economy in recent years. Based on 2013 data, only ARMM and the Zamboanga Peninsula performed below par. But this was largely before a new reformist regional government led by interim ARMM exec. Major Hataman had begun in earnest a deliberate campaign and economic agenda for the region. Major investments have in fact ensued in the past year alone. (cielitohabito.com/2014/10/02/mindanao-and-its-agribusiness-the-silent-corp/), to cite a couple—apparently emboldened by the positive directions the region is now taking.

There is good reason indeed why investments would pour into Muslim Mindanao now and in the years ahead, as it is actually endowed with key ingredients for a prime investment area. It possesses superior agro-climatic conditions, being largely typhoon-free and blessed with extensive arable soils. In fact, certain crops such as cassava, white corn and coffee attain better yields in the Muslim areas than elsewhere in the country. The region is also blessed with an abundance of other primary resources, including gold, chromite, nickel and iron ore. It still has large tracts of idle lands, and sugar sites, both official and de facto, are fewer compared to most of the rest of the country.

On top of the region's inherent assets described above, Bangsamoro possesses a vast scope for economic growth and diversification owing to Mindanao's location in the BIMP-EAGA (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area)—a linkage that is of greater significance and potential for Muslim Mindanao, relative to the rest of the country. I like to call attention to the fact that while Philippine economic integration efforts—bilateral and regional—have been relatively ethnic and religious group in the Philippines and even in the whole of Mindanao, they comprise the majority in southeast Asia. This gives Bangsamoro the potential edge in meeting the regional market's particular demands for goods and services.

But the thorns (and mines, for others) need determined attention for the above advantages of the region to be translated into a vibrant economy with more ways to investments from within and without. On the dissection of the investment climate, long time Mindanao expert Dennis Adriano cites the results of various surveys on the foremost impediments to private investments in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas. These are the unstable peace and order situation, land access and tenure security issues, inadequate and poor infrastructure, poor local governance performance (including graft and corruption), and the highly unskilled labor force in the area.

Given the situation as described in Muslim Mindanao, and in particular the urgent need to help Bangsamoro succeed, there is a strong argument for extraordinary measures and incentives that the autonomous government must be prepared to provide, over the necessary policy support from the national government, for need fiscal incentives, enhancements could include an effective investment guarantee and insurance scheme, creative financing mechanisms that may include government equity participation in promising joint business ventures, and liberal tariffs facilitation retained in local coffers. Assistance in gaining access to land, e.g., from the regional government or by LGUs, whether individually or as allied LGU clusters, is also important.

The task ahead is not only to promise but to allow Bangsamoro's people in Muslim Mindanao. I am confident that whatever eventually takes the helm of the new Bangsamoro government will do what it takes to ensure that investor interest, which is running high, will turn into actual entry of investments. See you in the Bangsamoro, the long-troubled region at the moment possible time.

Email: cielito.habito@gmail.com

China's agenda

COMMENTARY

Bobby M. Tuazon

BEIJING—In dealing with China particularly on territorial disputes, the Philippines' foreign policy makers still live in the Cold War era. The Aquino administration lacks strategic thinkers and talks through variant voices, with its "backdoor diplomacy" compromised by leaks and acrimonious public debates. Viewing China as a "communist state" (it's a "socialist market economy," Beijing officials say) and shedding Washington's legendary ire the one-on "special ties" with the United States, with a strong initiation of defense assistance between a Cold War minded.

Discipline was [illegible] some with China are [illegible] impaired by a lack of perception and, hence, an informed analysis of that country's strategic goals domestically regionally, and internationally. Lacking, too, is an appraisal of the link between the territorial disputes in the South China Sea (SCS) or West Philippine Sea (WPS) and China's security imperatives.

A look at the policy pronouncements and thoughts of Beijing's leaders as well as the perspectives of various think tanks in China should shed some light.

China's core agenda for the past 30 years is economic reform and modernization. Its development can happen only under a global environment of peace. China is the world's second largest economy with a more than 20 percent share of the global economy. Its six leaders describe China as a "developing country" and still in the first stage of socialism.

Wang Yang, member of the Central Committee and Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC), reiterated early in a policy on Sept. 21. He said that development was possible "by safeguarding world peace," and that China was promoting "sustainable peace for sustainable development." But he warned that the world had become more complex given the global financial crisis, "terrorism," territorial disputes, particularly in East Asia, and other problems.

To this regard, China today is obsessed with strengthening what Shi Guosheng, director of the Center for International Exchanges, calls its "weak economic foundation." To prompt sound implosion, it is addressing a growing social divide through equal income distribution and, says Prof. Zhao Zhikai of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, building a "harmonious society."

Global stability and increased economic cooperation hold the external key to China's meeting a 2020 target of values, while addressing its social problems and ensuring a 2050 policy of a "medium-developed country." Policy in defending exports in America and Europe, China is now prioritizing trade and economic cooperation in Asia, in particular in its own periphery. With the latter region, it is pushing a "win-win" economic partnership by building or expanding special economic zones, trade corridors, industrial and IT parks, as well as port, expressway, and railway connectivity in its southern regions including Kunming, Shenzhen, China-South City, and other areas. Recently, it forged long-term cooperation in the industrial, IT, and agro industry, science and technology agreements with Russia (Novgorod, Lion, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Timor Leste, and Thailand. In 2013, trade between China and these countries rose to $366.6 billion.)

China is offering enhanced economic cooperation, investment, loans, and technology transfer (aid of at least $2.8 billion) on a joint development platform with its southeast neighbors. It wants to play a "positive role" in ensuring economic stability and addressing festering security issues and territorial disputes in the region. As CPC Secretary-Gen Li Jianyi puts it, "The long-term security of East Asia hinges on the prosperity and unity of China peripheries" with the rest of a "neighborly security mechanism."

Li also Deng Xiaoping's oft-quoted thought in 1978, the chief of the controversial reform and modernization program: "laying aside disputes and engaging in common development" to solve territorial issues with neighboring countries. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei, likewise, consistently echo the same principle that territorial concern should not hamper economic cooperation. Unsurprisingly, since 1949 many of China's 23 historical border and territorial disputes have been settled peacefully, with Beijing at times bending backward.

Harmony, peace-building and the use of security alliances in the region's territorial disputes do not sit well with China. Yang Mingjie, research professor at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, notes that security in public peace-maintenance, the United States is seeking to reposition its power in the ECF, which threatens to be focused within Asia. When China openly suggest that Japan-Philippines-US alliance is "anti-China," Beijing Renmin University's Jin Canrong

PhilHealth Advisory

No. 18-03-2012

Change of Commencement Date of Global Budget Payment Program (GBPP)

The commencement of the implementation of the Global Budget Payment Program (GBPP) for CY 2012 and CY 2013 shall be changed as follows:

CY 2012 : from November 1, 2012 to December 1, 2012
CY 2013 : from January 1, 2013 to June 1, 2013

This is to provide ample time for the applicants to prepare the documentary requirements and for PhilHealth to process the applications. For more information on GBPP, please refer to PhilHealth Circular 37, s. 2012 which can be downloaded from **www.philhealth.gov.ph**.

For inquiries and clarifications on GBPP, please feel free to contact the Chief of Health Care Delivery Management Division of the PhilHealth Regional Office concerned.

DR. EDUARDO P. BANZON
President and CEO

Blessings from teaching

LETTERS

I AM glad I chose the teaching profession—the profession that spells a lot of meaningful service to the betterment of people.

Started from scratch as an ordinary teacher who could feel rooming inside and develop inner values. Teachers have that emotional approach of developing motherhood who can take control of their lives and their hearts. Come rain or flood, teachers report for work or classes whatever their weather is. They are considered as, even providers for, wayward students in those times are deeply troubling and grown due to broken homes and negligent parents. Teachers play a big role in guiding them, strengthening communities and shaping the nation as a whole.

It is said that the pen is mightier than the sword but I believe otherwise weapons of teachers is both—feeling is pure, for more than three hearts the heart to talk, the heart to listen and the heart to feel. Bringing out the best of their students is the crowning glory of every teacher since they do their part in building God's masterpiece, the human being.

Because of all their sacrifices, society should be generous to our teachers. Government must give support and assistance to these unsung heroes of our country. The celebration of National Teachers' Month is truly a fitting tribute to the profession that everybody has passed through and benefited from.

Indeed, I am proud, and will always be in the remaining years of my life, that I had been a teacher.

—JOSEFINE S. ALMARQUEZ,
Volunteer Air Force, Pasay City,
mimi_3arabquez@yahoo.com

P-Noy's LP also still stuck in same old politics

THIS is in reaction to the article titled "Filling cider" Inquirer.net, 10/2/12).

Days after the period for the filing of certificates of candidacy (COC), many probably may still be in a state of surprise. So nothing really has changed on the political front. We still see political allies running into head-on political foes turning into allies. All I can say is I am dumbfounded by the out of reason.

We, we are politicians who were against the Arroyo administration before but are now vindicators of the political Party (LP).

In Iloilo, for example, we have a longtime Liberal Party stalwart and former senator, Victor "Vic" Ziga, who ordered his constituents heroically and courageously during his days as an elected official and as a member of Persahan Corp. against Cojuangcos. The Ziga family is known to be one of the most loyal members of the party for almost three generations, starting with the late Sen. Tecla San Andres Ziga and her husband, former Rep. Fernando Ziga. In 2010, Vic's son, Jerry, was elected governor of Iloilo. This time he wanted to run for Congress under the LP ticket.

But I was flabbergasted to learn that the LP chose Rahel Lagman-A., son of Rep. Edcel Lagman, as its congressional bet in the district instead of Ricky, thus driving Ricky to run under the banner of UNA.

We all know Representative Lagman. He was a great statesman, very passionate supporter of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Not only that, I personally know him as person (traditional politician). I vividly recall how Lagman opposed the Arroyo administration.

Coming to know Rahel Lagman-A., personally, I find it so disheartening that after all the struggles, efforts and hopes he championed will find our politics exactly the same. How could the LP which, in this Aquino administration, claims to champion change and reform, have recruited such a notorious political clone and have it sided with the very same people who supported Arroyo and are so tainted as she is with corruption? Has the LP become too anti-climax to look just what it stands and for? Was it because our politicians who side with the very people we had rallied to step down for betraying the people? Is this LP too driven to win the 2013 presidential election that it loses sight many times—and all sudden to ignore and the best interest of the country? Has the LP become that simple and selfishly people unprincipled to lead for the Aquino to win in the 2013 presidential race, hoping to still lead the national charge for reforms?

No wonder most of the Filipinos who go abroad do not care anymore, becoming more disgusted—like politics in our country—really never change.

—KATRINA DANIEL VELASCO,
Lucena City
(y)ahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of issues and stories by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Pasong Blanco Extension, City of Makati, or send a fax to 896-8057/893-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

WORLD FOOD DAY 2012

"Agricultural cooperatives: key to feeding the world"

MESSAGES

DA leads 'World Food Day' celeb, highlights role of farmers' cooperatives

The Department of Agriculture continues to promote with various agricultural cooperatives, including organic vegetable and fruit growers, to be more involved in the production and marketing of their products. Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala (center) is shown here with Agriculture Undersecretary Dennis Araneta (second from left), Bureau of Agricultural Cooperatives Director Rodolfo Bacani (second from right), and local officials at a forum in Pateros, as they signed a commitment agreement to consolidate provincial cooperatives in a master and umbrella producer of rice, fish and other agricultural commodities.

22 more party-list groups disqualified

From page A1

1st Consumers Alliance for Rural Energy (1-Care) and the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec).

Reacting to them, 1-Care and Apec have three seats in the House of Representatives.

The disqualification of Apec and 1-Care came following the Comelec's vote to crack down on bogus groups to cleanse the party-list system, which critics said had been inundated with millionaires and scions of influential political families.

The announcement brought to 35 the total number of party-list groups dropped from the list of organizations qualified to participate in the party-list election in May.

Last month, the Comelec ruled that Abe Bicol, the top vote getter in the 2010 elections and currently representative of Bantay Republic Act, and Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) from the 2013 midterm elections, said Bellosillo.

"Our basis is that, first, they are corporations. Second, there is no victim for electric consumers," he added.

In the 2010 elections, Apec garnered 1,910,880 votes, which allowed it to earn a seat in the House currently occupied by Rep. Bonifacio Bosyong.

1-Care managed to win two seats with 770,005 votes. The group is represented in the House by Michael Angelo Abaya and Salvador Calvelo of BI.

Only 13 sectors

Under the party-list law, only 12 marginalized and underrepresented sectors can seek congressional representation by law, particularly labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers and professionals.

This was enlarged in a Supreme Court ruling on the case of Ang Bagong Bayani v. Comelec in 2000.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sector was allowed to run for seats in the House already in the Supreme Court decided on the case of Ang Ladlad LGBT party v. Comelec in 2010. It did not win a seat.

Under the Constitution, 20 percent of seats in the House are reserved for party-list groups of marginalized sectors. Today, 44 party-list groups have 58 representatives in the 287-member House.

Bellosillo announced the deliberating of Apec and 1-Care ahead of an en banc resolution, which was issued later in the afternoon yesterday.

"We have to come out with a resolution because we are announcing now and they might want to rush to the Supreme Court," said the Comelec chief.

He also disclosed that aside from the two party-list groups, the Comelec en banc also unanimously agreed to cancel the accreditation of 20 other organizations. Bar Bellosillo declined to name them because the final resolutions concerning these groups was still being prepared for signing.

To seek relief in SC

1-Care and Apec said they would challenge the poll body's decision before the Supreme Court.

Rivera of 1-Care said his group was qualified because it joined the contenders to avail assistance who are hard-pressed to secure basic necessities such as electricity and water.

"We represent people in the rural areas, rural farmer consumers, those who live in the countryside and do not have electricity. We provide them with power," Rivera told reporters.

"Is this what they call a not marginalized sector?" he asked.

Pinpin of Apec said his group was pioneering and helping consumers and the electric cooperatives further serve them.

He said his group was pushing for electric cooperatives owned by the people, and which kept prices down. Without cooperatives, there would be no groups pushing for the welfare of electricity consumers in the provinces, he added.

"We have a good intention," Pinpin said in a phone interview.

Disheartened

Pinpin said he was disheartened upon hearing of the Comelec's decision, which came on the same day that his group and other organizations were celebrating the international year of cooperatives.

He noted that Apec, which was formed in 1997, had been working to serve consumers. Unlike the party-list groups, electric cooperatives are just cousins of political families, he added.

Well-represented

In disqualifying Abe Bicol, the Comelec pointed out that its objective was to uplift and represent fishfolks, who are already well represented in Congress by district representatives.

The poll body also ruled that the group "does not represent or seek to uplift a marginalized and underrepresented sector within the contemplation of the party-list system."

Abe Bicol deplored the Comelec ruling, saying that the party was "unfairly singled out" since there were other party-list groups with virtually the same mission and the same kind of representatives in the organization.

Brillantes yesterday said Abe Bicol was still lucky since the Comelec's early announcement of their disqualification had given it time to prepare and ask for the high tribunal to seek relief.

"Isn't it more unfortunate for those groups we have yet to announce?" asked the Comelec chair. "If we will be unfair to Abe Bicol, we would have kept this hanging until above November or December so that by the time they will be rushing to answer a decision from the Supreme Court."

He expressed the hope that the high court would soon come up with a ruling on Abe Bicol since the decision would also affect other groups.

"But still we can't wait for it ... we are still coming out with more cancellations," he said.

Just half of 115

Brillantes reckoned that only half of the 115 existing party-list groups would be allowed to participate in the elections next year.

Groups, including Mahalagan coalition, yesterday pooped to the Comelec to appear more to also disqualify malfunctioning parties.

The groups urged a solution favor of the Comelec building, Makabayan and Bayan Muna presidents Satur Ocampo met with brilliantes.

Ocampo warned to be clarified on reports that in choosing the party-list system plagued by sham organizations, the Comelec may end up supposedly disqualifying groups representing several sectors.

"But it has already been established in an that it's not the sole basis for disqualifying a group. The Comelec would also balance its decision on other factors," Ocampo said in a talk with reporters.

"As far as we are concerned, we are confident with our track record," he said.

Skydiver breaks sound barrier

From page A1

Landing on his feet in the desert, the man known as "Fearless Felix" lifted his arms in victory in the classic of jubilant friends and sponsors who closely followed his descent in a live television feed at the command center.

"When I was standing there on top of the world, you become so humble, you do not think about breaking records anymore, you do not think about gaining scientific data," he said after the jump. "The only thing you want to in some back alive."

Mission control also watched live on the fourteen via cameras mounted on his capsule as Baumgartner, wearing a pressurized suit, stood by the doorway of his capsule, gave a thumbs-up and leapt into the stratosphere.

"Sometimes we have to get really high to see how small we are," in exuberant Baumgartner told reporters outside mission control after the jump.

Nine-minute descent

Baumgartner's descent lasted just over nine minutes, about half of it in a free fall at 35,536 m (116,646 ft), according to Brian Utley, a jump observer from RM, an International group that works to determine and maintain the integrity of aviation records. Utley said the record attempt criteria were preliminary figures.

During the first part of Baumgartner's free fall, sensors on helmet at the command center held their breath to be apparent to spin uncontrolled. Utley.

"When I was spinning the first 10, 20 seconds, I never thought I was going to lose my life but I was disappointed because I'm going to lose my record. I put seven years of my life into this," he said.

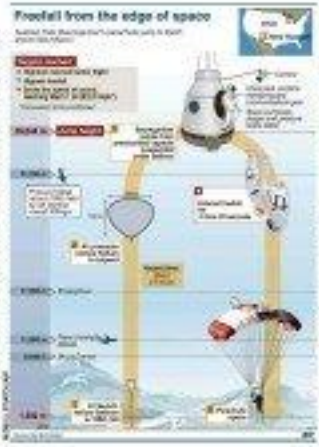
Baumgartner's first attempt, when you spin around, it's like built and you don't know if you can get out of that spin or not. Of course it was terrifying. I was fighting all the way down because I knew that there must be a moment where I can handle it."

Baumgartner said travelling faster than sound was hard to describe because you don't feel it." The pressurized suit you wound him from feeling the rushing air or even the loud noise he made when breaking the sound barrier.

With no reference points, "you don't know how fast you travel," he said.

55-story balloon

The 43-year-old former Army paratrooper with more than 2,500 jumps behind him had taken off early Sunday in a capsule carried by a 55-story al-


Freefall from the edge of space
Capsule
Helium balloon
Parachute
Capsule
Helium balloon
Parachute
Capsule
Helium balloon
Parachute

Editor Teddyboy B. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Knights oust Stags, forge duel vs Lions

LETRAN star Kevin Alas defies the defense of San Sebastian's Calvin Abueva (extra) right \ playoff at FilOil Flying V Arena. ROGUE PINTO

By Cedelf F Tupas

First-shard guard Mark Cruz stood tallest in the final period as Letran edged San Sebastian, 72-70, at Filoil Flying V Arena last night to reach the NCAA basketball finals for the first time in two years.

The semifinal playoff on the Don (23-Sept. 7, Cruz chilled in 13 of his 20 points in the last period as the Knights overcame the Stags' twice-to-beat edge to earn the right to face the defending champion San Beda Lions in the finals.

Game 1 of the best-of-three finals between two of the NCAA's winningest teams is slated Thursday at Mall of Asia Arena.

Cruz hit the biggest shots, none bigger than his jumper with 1:52 left that gave the Knights a 69-66 cushion.

But forgiving streak for the Stags, who were trying to become the first team in the event (dated through Doctor Mangaoil, but the Knights made key defensive stops before Jonathan Hefti to and Jean Cedric Ilot from three minutes to the game.

The Knights' wins completed a four-game sweep of the Stags this season. This one, however, had its ebbs and flows as Letran coach Louie Alas still felt his team needed to double its effort to repeat their best three victories.

"It came down to their willingness to win," said Alas. "There was no secret sauce for Xs and Os in this game. I was more of a showdown than the results."

Getting off a 43-point explosion in the series opener last Saturday, Kevin Alas cooled off with 10 points but his lineup with 6:35 remaining was part of the quick burst from the Knights that allowed Letran to regain the lead.

[illegible]

Cojuangco POC ticket shaping up

By Jane Navarro

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. is pulling up a ticket of weaknesses, new aspirants and former candidates in seeking a third term in the POC election next year.

Kaunlaran chief Jose Romanillos, the POC spokesperson for Cojuangco's first two terms, will run as first vice president while the second vice president slot is cross-up between cycling head Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino and Jeff Tamayo of golf fame.

Tolentino, the mayor of Tagaytay City and PSAFI chief, has announced, on his first "55" under the ticket of shooting's air Mangaoil in 2008 but lost. Cojuangco, working another term as of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, beat Mangaoil, 21-19, in the polls four years ago.

A reliable source said womanizer Mark Arnedo, Cojuangco's deputy secretary general, is willing to give way to Cynthia Carrion of Philgames, who is running as secretary general after Irma Heatherwick decided to finally give up the position.

Julian Camacho of tourism is out to retain his post to maneuver while triathlete Tom Carrion will run as auditor.

"We're talking. We have to come up with a united ticket," Cojuangco said. "We're now on the verge of really considering the entire process of developing athletes."

The POC elections is scheduled on Nov. 19 at Alabang Country Club with 40 national sports associations, less athlete representatives, doing partake. Meanwhile, Torres and Jose Mario "Salanoy" and International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde making up the roster list.

So far, only two aspirants have filed their candidacy—POC chair Monico Puentevella, who is looking to keep his post, and Gatorade.

No one has come out to challenge Cojuangco, although several NOAs are asking questions and footsteps of Manny Vi Pangilinan are also making moves on earlier indications to run for the ticket of the present POC head.

Pangilinan heads the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas and chairs his amateur boxing association of the Philippines and the Philippine Badminton Association.

Azkals resume buildup against Kuwait

By Cedelf F Tupas

CLOSE to full strength and growing in confidence, the Philippines gets to gauge its football progress against World Cup newcomers Kuwait tonight in another international friendly at Rizal.

Still looking for their best base, the Azkals hope to get the feel they need to be competitive in the AFF Suzuki Cup in Bangkok next month.

The Azkals have been grouped with Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar which topped the qualifying stage in Yangon over the weekend.

The Azkals are coming off a scoreless draw against Asian powerhouse Bahrain in Manama last Friday in what could go down as one of the best results the country has produced internationally.

It was the Azkals who created the better chances with veterans and young players displaying cohesion that has refreshed the tepid development of the side assembled by coach Michael Weiss.

But the side looks to surpass that result against the Kuwaitis, who handled them out of the second round in World Cup Qualifying last year.

"It would be interesting to see how far we've come since those games with Kuwait last year," said Azkals manager Dan Palami. "We will always keen to consider the scope the team plays."

Kuwait won both legs and 3-1 on aggregate with the lone goal coming from Stephan Schrock in the return leg at Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Schrock is the only significant name missing from the side for the match-up at 6 p.m. (11 p.m. in the Philippines) with Phil and James Younghusband and goalkeeper Neil Etheridge all making their return to the lineup.

The Southern crew left out of the Peace Cup lineup because of commitments in-season and were fined off the Bahrain trip because of scheduling difficulties.

Loaned by Fulham to fourth-division side British Knights, Etheridge will be making his 37th appearance for the national team.

CRUCIL

APPLE Posadas says her board exam ends a 20th

BULADAC

Perfect Posadas seizes fourth Sletba Open title

APPLE Posadas of PRAISEwhatever rolled a perfect game in ruling the Masters event of the 1968 Shy Socks East Tropics Bowling Association (Sletba) Open championships Sunday.

Posadas, who had seven wins last season, managed to spare her best for last as she held the lead at the halfway mark of the 12-game series before an explosive finish highlighted by a perfect 300 in the ninth game.

It was actually Posadas' fourth Sletba Open title, having also ruled from 2005-2007.

Aside from the championship trophy, Posadas runs P50,000 plus another P10,000 for the perfect game.

Dhoren King and Jason Tabid, both of TRAM-Primo placed second and third.

Mike Uriel of TRAM-Primo topped Fat return from a seven-game hiatus by winning the Second Masters, beating 17-year-old LA Lucio of ORAP and Modex Soler of PRAISEwhatever.

The Juvenile Masters event was an all-Sletba affair with Jan Balocoy playing first, followed by Toby Elame and Jose Chua.

Aklan Ito of Sletba led all throughout the 10-game series en-route to the Ladies Masters title. In two and Anika Arem, both of TRAM-Primo, came in second and third, respectively.

In the Senior Masters category, Cora Bonifacio of Sletba topped the field, followed by Boy Gonzaga and Milo Dizado, both of the Pasig Bowling Association.

Alta Vista golfers top final leg

CEBU—Dennis Casey and Manolina Revalo-na ruled their A Team to victory in Group 1 and led a strong show by Cebu golfers in the final leg of the Sen. Lucio Golf Tour at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club here recently.

Casey tallied 100 Makro points and Revalo-na made 87 in the duo, which topped the intermediate third leg in Bangkok, lifted teammates Antonio Salinga (93) and Edgardo Acuña (85) to the top in the top division of the four-leg golf tour co-sponsored with Inquirer Visayas.

If Bohol comes next, however, in the Cebanese quarter needed to prevail in the round-look over the Davao Eagle team of Joel Bartolome, Hermione Gonzales, Eduardo Pelo and Tomas Tolentino with the low-day 31 of seven against the 40 of Pinoy pressing duo-tion.

The Super Groups squad made up of Benjy Quinton (82), Nestor Mendoza (76), Alex John Lanot (79) and Bernard Allan Lim (83) clinched a second win for the Alta Vista by besting the Pinoy Boys, 237-238.

Norvie Taparig, fielding the largest contingent of 12 players, topped Group IV through Team Echo made up of Orlando Robles, Jose Escoto, Bruno Mercader and Marcel Amoroso while Team Galaxy's Isaac Arbasa, Dindo Pe-reyra, Antonio del Rosario and Ramon Angeles took the top B by Eagle Ridge.

Team Echo, getting a combined 373 to us Arbasa and del Rosario, teamed up with a 212 to clinch eight points ahead of Skull from favor-ly Flare and Team Galaxy posted a three point win over the Ark Boys of this Vista.

FEU booters whitewash UAAP champs

FEU Eastern 3 entered UAAP ranks University of the Philippines-Eastern Pendatun, 2-0, Sunday in the start of the 2012 UFL Cup football season at Quirino Grandstand field in Sto. Rosario City.

Tipped to contend in the UAAP this season, the Tamaraws wasted no time to open the scoring nine minutes into the second half.

"This is a good start for us," said Tamaraws coach Jeff Linzon, whose wards will next face Arellanos Saturday.

"This team is comprised of our top juniors crust for the past two years that's why they play together well," said FEU coach Vicente Sacapa.

In other matches, Ian Salle-Blind and Arnaco-Flying V fought to a scoreless draw; National U and guest team Philippine Christian University battled to a 2-2 draw; UPHSD-Red doubled Arellanos University, 5-1, and College of St. Benilde topped Perpetual, 2-1.

The tournament is bankrolled by IP-PCA members Clemenza Technologies Inc., Eastern Petroleum Corp., Philpride/USAHI, Seaoil Philippines Inc., Flying V Oilfield, United International Pipelines Phils. Inc., Phil Integrity Chemical Corp., Trans Overseas Industrial Corp. and CIBI. —Gabriel P. Tupas

Interactive sponsors: Manila Shrine Eagles Spring Mobile, IOC Investment Super Point, SM Supermalls Digital Stage, Big Ads, CDO Distillery Corp. and Cornell Steel and Hanging Lechon

FIERCE action in the La Salle-Ateneo match.

Global rips Socceroo; Pasargad sinks Navy

By Gabriel P. Tupas

THERE was no shortage of firepower for Global as it smoked Socceroo, 11-0, Sunday night to move on the verge of clinching a quarterfinal slot in the UFL Cup at Quezon Sports Club field.

Global missed eight players who are on national team duty in the Middle East, but the remaining members in the side rose to the challenge to boost the reigning league champions to their second victory.

Stalwarts striker Ian Araneta and Cameroonian diver Dhiang combined for seven goals, while substitutes Eddie Nwatnally announced his rose to a scintillating show of firepower against the second division side.

Jerry Barbasa and Ronnie Rodriguez also bossed the back of the net as Global moored to the top of Group A with seven points, ahead on goal difference over General Tinio.

In another Group A match, Pasargad blanked Navy, 3-0, to stay in the fight for a place in the knockout stage.

Meanwhile, Army clashed to the top of Group B with a 2-0 dumping of Agila. Jobo Cain and Ricardo Bedro scored late goals as Army bounced up to 6 points ahead of Stallion.

Nhik Cinmas winger Bivin Capobi terminating defenders on the right flank and Yo Hashide pulling the strings in the middle, Girlstrad no problem cruising to easy victories.

And when it did, El Habibh did not disappoint, taking his tally to five goals in the UFL Cup after tossing a hat of chimes in the unanswered goals against General Tinio.

El Habibh completed his hat-trick in the 58th minute with a header off a free kick from Hashide, giving Global a 6-0 lead at the break.

Barbasa struck on the counter attack in the 70th minute, before Nwatnally and Dhiang completed the matches on.

Finger cut may scotch Arce tiff

By Mare Anthony Reyes

CARSON, California—A half-inch cut stands in the way of Nonito Donaire's first ever million-dollar fight within the year.

The 29-year-old Donaire sustained the index finger knuckle cut in the left hand in his technical ninth-round technical knockout of Japanese Toshiaki Nishioka on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) here, jeopardizing a possible Dec. 15 fight lined up for him by promoter Bob Arum against Mexican star Juan Manuel Marquez.

Donaire, who first cut the knuckle during a sparring session in his training camp for Nishioka, injured it again after unloading an uppercut that sent the Japanese down in the ninth round. That forced him to load up his right fist to finish the job at Home Depot Center.

The cut, which soaked Donaire's handwraps with blood, was stitched and could withdraw him for the rest of the fight.

Arum said he has scheduled the Donaire-Arce showdown, projected to pit the Filipino Flash among welterweight fighters, in Mexico City if Donaire's hand heals in time.

For now, however, Donaire is savoring the victory that tightened his grip of the WBO super bantamweight crown and heralded him as the division's top fighter.

"I hope to inspire people," Donaire, who earned $500,000+ against Nishioka, told the Inquirer Sunday, saying he wanted to encourage young people to pursue their dreams no only in boxing but in other endeavors as well.

"This is not just for myself, this is for all the fans," said Donaire.

Donaire handed the highly regarded Nishioka his first loss dating to eight years, posting the 30-year-old Japanese on the brink of retirement.

The knockdown forced Nishioka to step up his attack, firing jabs and combinations which Donaire viewed as an opportunity to strike.

Late in the ninth round, just when Nishioka thought he got the Filipino Flash pinned on the ropes, Donaire sprung a crushing right straight that sent him to the floor.

In accepting Fighters, Donaire was named by Ring magazine as the top junior featherweight champion in the world, a stylistic title Nishioka used to own.

The win "solidifies his place among the best and pernicious himself by another high-profile fight," wrote Michael Rosenthal of ringtv.com.

NOWHERE Donaire zaps Toshiaki Nishioka with an uppercut in Saturday's WBO super bantamweight title fight in Carson, California.

Lady Falcons crush SLU softbelles in 3 innings

HEZZA Bernardino, Julie Marie Mayor and Ruby Jane Sun combined for a no-hit, no-run, no-err game as powerhouse Adamson University took only three innings to mauldate St. Louis University, 20-0, yesterday at the start of the Lady Falcons' 21st Women's National Intercollegiate Softball Championship at Rizal's Sports Complex in Pasig City.

Bernardino, best pitcher and MVP of the recent Big League World Series won by Team Manila, retired the first three batters she faced.

Mayor, the country's No. 1 pitcher, and Sun duplicated the feat in their turn as the mauled as the Lady Falcons opened their bid for a three-peat.

All but one of the 20 lady Falcons struck Asia Santiago fielded contributed in a 16-hit attack against 16-year-old SLU starting pitcher Elizabeth Bunce.

Shanning Quevan-Salado went perfect in two trips at the plate and had one run batted in. Rookie grandstanders Lorna Adorable and Andrea Mae Gonzales matched Salado's effort while driving in three and two runs, respectively.

Lorvimida Embuscado and Glee Ebanan, two of five members of the Philippine Mo Girls in coach Saenger's roster, also singled and doubled home a run, raising their run to the delight of the crowd in the opener of the 11-team, one-round series sponsored by Gilmanian Distiller, Gilmania Pets Dobala, La Soledad Brewing Gilmanian Distiller Insurance Solutions, Jose Jewels and Filmart.

University of the East scored all its three runs in the first inning in a 3-1 victory over University of Santo Tomas.

It was a bloody day for provincial contingents as University of the Philippines Diliman dumped Bulacan State University, 11-1.

The Lady Falcons play a doubleheader today against the UE Lady Warriors and Team Colleges and Universities Athletic Association champ Rizal Technological University. —Gilmar Gillan, Cesar Ibarra

Floirendo Driver of the Year

VINCENT Floirendo fanned undefeated Jody Gerpacio to capture contested drought Driver of the Year honors in the 2012 Philippine Cup of the 2012 Yokohama Philippine GT Championship held at Clark International Speedway.

Gerpacio actually ruled the Main GT race, but Floirendo secured a runner-up finish to emerge Overall Yokohama GT champion by just two points, 267-265.

Though Floirendo and teammate Jojo Silverio entered the 1-2 in the morning's figure eight Grunting, who placed third, was nursing their hopes of a victory. He could have done it if he won the GT Main Race and Floirendo ended up third.

With his win in the final race, Gerpacio salvaged the GT300 crown by just two points over Floirendo, 269-267.

Garnering two Yokohama sportscars for rising from the tailend index to the Spirit race, when his engine ceased in the warm-up lap and in the Main GT....in the races sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines and sponsored by Official Tires Yokohama, Official Oil Race Racing Oil and Racing Shoe @Power 89.1.

Arnel Carbo landed third overall but topped the GT2000 ride over his son Dimple Boots Carbo and Point Rize of TSO-Castrol Racing Team.

Dandee Pantugal, the mayor of Tayasa, Batangas, capped the overall GT1300 title over Ron Jacket of TSO-Castrol Racing.

NO. 1 ARMY Vincent Floirendo rules the roost

SPORTSWATCH

Basketball coaches convention lures 200

THE BASIC drew alliance. Defending the pick-and-roll. The four points on a half-court game. The importance of values in the formation of a young basketball player.

These are some of the workshop topics in the second Manuel V. Pangilinan Sports Foundation (MVPSF) Coaches Convention that was organized to succeed with the National Basketball Training Center.

Some 200 high school coaches from the National Basketball Training Center (NBTC) League attended the convention at Philsports Arena from Friday to Sunday last week.

Coach Tim Cone of San Mig Coffee, former Powerade head coach Bo Perasol, Talk 'N Text assistant coach Josh Reyes, National U coach Eric Altamirano, former assistant coach Jeff Napa-Bonleongan, and Ateneo coach Rey Baral as well as strength and conditioning guru Herodes Calamba, nutrition specialist Lachie Calvert, and motivational speaker Andy Abadia were the speakers during the convention.

"This is our way of giving back to the game and to help Filipinos everywhere by learning the basics of basketball coaches in the country for a connection," said training director Ilac Compton.

The MVPSF convention is one of the grassroots development projects of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

NCAA Finals protagonists PSA Forum guests

MEMBERS of last year's defending champion San Beda Red Lions and their rivals in the Season 87 NCAA men's basketball tournament will be the guests of the PSA Forum at Shakey's Malate.

Team manager Jude Roque and several Red Lions will share their thoughts on the best-of-three finals that series slated at the venue Thursday at 9AM of Aries Arena. The session starts at 10:30AM.

The remaining members of the Lions' championship and Letran will also appear in the program aired live over PSA Forum Radio 91.9 and presented by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., and Shakey's.

The second part of the forum will have AIA Philippines presenting the Korean fighters seeing action in Saturday's Pinoy Pride 31st: Philippines vs. The World.

NCAA final leg on; top stag fighter known today

TWO DOZENS of weightlifting fans and athletes are expected to head to Puerto Sports Arena in Pasig City today for the sixth and final leg of the National Capital Athletic Association (NCAA) derby circuit.

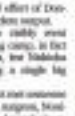
Dedicated to the memory of the late Ronnie Yeung, Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP) president Manny Lao, and Bobby Manalo, the NCAA Final Leg Fighter race with 25 points followed by Peter Medina as well as Manny and Adrian Santos with 21.5 each and Cutting Edge Fight with 21. Also with a mathematical chance of topping the race are Ka-cutting and Eugene Martin with 19.5.

BY TOP CHOICE
Jhe San Lazaro LP

From Top Rank: The warrior as worm

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



WHILE in the world, considered a very world-class boxing chronicler, can you find a fighter with great credentials that could land only 49 punches in nine bouts?

That Japanese boxer had been peddled all the rounds in the house—as a feared scorpion, a shining samurai.

The sharp snake inexplicably curled and froze into a fighter. Mikio reverts when the first bell rang.

This is about the WBC super bantamweight championship fight between Nonito Donaire Jr. of the Philippines and Japanese star Toshiaki Nishioka in Carson City, California, on Sunday.

***

Norm Wanzcheim, who had done memorable pieces in praise of Manny Pacquiao, remained deeply perplexed at Nishioka's performance.

"There are not a lot of Donaire and Nishioka could put together a satisfying fight," wrote Frumentarium in an article posted by philboxing.com.

The blame fell on Nishioka for refusing to engage, an homily that seemed fans to howl and boo right after the first round.

Everybody was also left to ponder how Top Rank had taken the guff to frantically transport off Nishioka to a Pacquiao-Bono.

***

Those who knew something about the Donaire fastener did not have to wait for the second round. They all started to cry "mismatch."

It's funny but the hot-selling host instantly dipped down cut-and-cruise underdog.

Of the 49 punches Nishioka supposedly landed, only 26 were solid, the rest were jabs and grazes.

Meanwhile, the composed effort of Donaire did not manifest his complete output.

The Filipino Flash, who visibly went through one hell of a training camp, in fact had to play it extra cautious, lest Nishioka should, blown without taking a single big punch.

It was all no use, he had not met someone as distantly strange. In a Tokyo surgeon, bound to land to operate with utmost dexterity to collect the gold out the solid, cold opponent from his crushing shell.

***

Will the TKO win, registered as a ninth-round stoppage, enhance Donaire's call-duo as a world pound-for-pound star?

Well, yes and no.

The numerical effort definitely adds luster to his genius and wizardry, how he was able to earn the garbage of a mismatch into valid threats.

In the same time, the quality of opposition, the degree of danger, not to mention the doubtful difficulty, could also detract from the brilliance.

***

In the end, it's hard to ascertain how fans could be lured from a repeat of that Japanese star performance that, absent as it was, served into achievement for the sport.

Pardon that list, after all the things he was allowed to say about himself in the run-up to the Sunday main event, Nishioka must be reminded that he has also shared the great tradition of the Samurai.

Nishioka indeed had a great record to attend on. But it cannot be denied that, if in one place, they had seemingly balanced with his fierce gaze when they brought him back to the assembly place in preparation for the dog fight.

The whole of Japan definitely teared up to smash their companion. Now, as Nishioka thrums with the wood, his countrymen may have finally found a fit Japanese synonym for Mediocre.

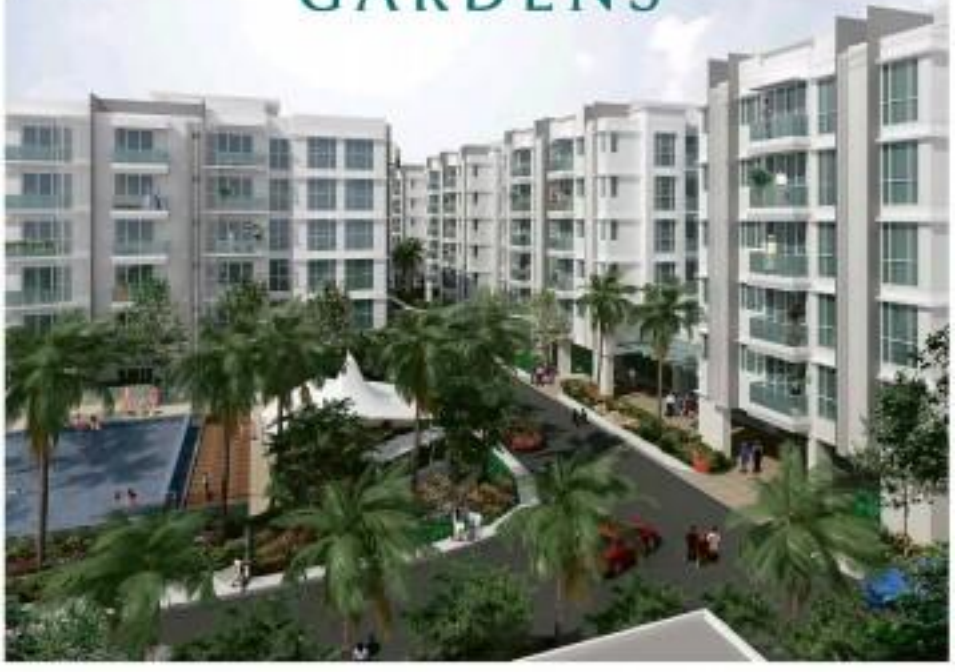
For Top Rank, it's time to try and laugh at itself.

It's not everyday that they can succeed in selling a worm as a warrior.

You are cordially invited to our **Dinosure Festival** on **October 26-27 and 27-28**, from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, at the **Golfhill Gardens Sales Pavilion.**

SEE OUR BRAND NEW MODEL UNITS.

GOLFHILL GARDENS



Live in a **prime neighborhood** right next to the COUNTRY'S **BEST SCHOOLS**.

When you call Golfhill Gardens home, you give your children the gift of topnotch education. Located in Capitol Hills, Quezon City, your low-density community puts you just a few minutes away from the country's premier university town, where the best and brightest minds are honed. Let your kids excel in your choice of nearly 20 top academic institutions, all easily reached by Golfhill Gardens' exclusive bus shuttles. And map out a future that's bright with potential and possibility.

Golfhill Gardens. Opening doors to living and learning well.

Developer:

Tels: **(632) 952-0888 • 0920-9458888**

Email: **golfhill_gardens@yahoo.com**

2012 AWARDS

Aplus METRO

Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

Metro Editor: Tess Jaucian | Website: www.inquirer.net/metro | Email: jaucian@inquirer.com.ph

Technical Assistant: Raphael Bondoc (+632) 896-6000 local 3490

PALAWAN EXPRESS PUPA PADALA

PURA, MABILIS, MALIWANG KOOKOO-BALUKOOS!

SAME-DAY & NEXT-DAY DELIVERY TO 400 MUNICIPALITIES NATIONWIDE AT LIMITED & AFFORDABLE STATIONERY RATES!

www.palawanexpress.com

dito na kalangang magsabwa para mapasaya ka. dahil dito, mas makakamura ka

Kapag tinghapad ka nang mas maaga sa due date mo o ordito ay yong monthly due, mas makakamura ka sa loan mo. PSBank Loans lang ang meron dito. To know more, call the Customer Service Hotline at (02) 845-8888 anytime, any day or visit your nearest PSBank branch.

PSBank Loans with PRIME REBATE

Predawn attack leaves 7 dead in Rizal

Cops link killings to drug trade after victims' names appear on watch list

By Kristine Felice Marquez and Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

A COUPLE who were on the police watch list for their suspected involvement in the illegal drug trade ended up dead along with five of their friends after two men barged inside their house yesterday morning in Rodriguez, Rizal, and shot them.

According to the police, the victims had just come from a drinking spree when their denied it to stop by the couple's house at Phase IV in Barangay San Jose before going home at 3 a.m.

"Suddenly, two motorcycle-riding men wearing black jackets and full helmets barged in and opened fire on them," said Supt. Dan Rait, Rodriguez police chief. Two other men remained outside the house to serve as lookouts.

The 40-year-old owner of the house and his wife, Nikki and Alan Santos, died on the spot along with Joshua Tuazon, 18, Jady Ann Arroyo, 20, John Michael Guevara, 18, Roxcon Talagang, 18, and Lemuel Pilotos, 20. Ten victim had been shot more than once, the police said.

The couple's two daughters aged 10 and 11 were asleep in another part of the house when the shooting broke out. Both were not hurt.

Members of the Crime Operations force recovered from the house at least 20 casings from cal. .40 and .45 firearms.

They also found bottles of Sprite, plastic include that contained what was believed to be methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" and drug paraphernalia.

Although there were reports that the shooting may have been carried out by a vigilante group, Rait said they strongly suspected that it was "drug-related."

"We are still investigating but we have a strong feeling it has [something] to do with drugs," he added.

He explained that Nikki Santos was on the municipality's drug watch list and had served time for drug pushing, according to a relative.

"The ARROYO [Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force of the police] also confirmed to us that [Nikki] was on their target list," Rait said.

"According to the neighbors, it seemed the victims knew their assailants. They heard no commotion or screaming from the house but just a round of shots and after a few minutes, another round," he added.

None of the victim's neighbors, however, came out of their houses for fear they too would be killed.

"One of the [gunmen] had shouted, 'Don't meddle if you don't want to get hurt'," Rait said.

The couple's house, made of concrete blocks, was on a government relocation site, referred to by Rodriguez residents as "sub-urban." The victims used to live in Tondo, Manila, until they moved to the area.

Senior Supt. Rolando Asuncion, Rizal police director, meanwhile, said that they have identified the gunmen and their cohorts based on descriptions given by a witness.

However, he refused to name them as this might hamper follow-up operations. At the same time, he confirmed that the motive for the killing had something to do with the drug trade.

Bank security execs laud arrest of rob gang leader

By Nico Calleja

BASED on the confession made by one of the murdered members of the Ghanim robbery group, a high official is convinced that the gang was behind a series of bank robbery-inspired bombs, armored vans, pawnshops and office refurbishments in Metro Manila and nearby areas.

"We have no doubt that this group was behind the recent robberies in Metro Manila, particularly in Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa and the one robbery in Valenzuela early," Feliciano Insigne, vice president for security of UnionBank and director of the Bank Security Management Association, told the Inquirer yesterday.

The association is composed of 47 security officers from various banks and pawnshops operating in the country, according to him.

He said the information given to the police by Daniel "Danjun" Espera, the 24-year-old mechanic who was arrested and during questioning confessed to being a member of the robbery gang, narrated credible and could be used in pursuing the cases filed against the robbery.

The arrest of Ricky Contreras, the alleged leader of the Ghanim robbery group, is a rich lesson to Scorpius, Carrie, last week was a major setback to the robbers' operations, Insigne said.

According to Chief Supt. Bonifacio Ediposa, Southern Police District director, the arrest of Contreras, who was recently convicted in four separate robbery cases and sentenced to a total of 67 years in prison, was the result of good intelligence and investigative work.

Espera had confessed that he was in charge of storing the getaway vehicles for the group. He also told the police how they planned the heists and their escapades.

He said he was bothered by his conscience when two members of the group died in a shootout with security guards at Alabang Town Center on Sept. 14 after they took a duffel bag containing P7 million from an armored van.

The money from UnionBank was supposed to be delivered to a foreign exchange shop in the mall when the group struck.

"I don't want this kind of life. I want to live. I really want to rip these off on the police," Espera said, referring to the group members.

WIND-PROOF
Construction workers lie in the steel frame of a gigantic billboard at Lawton, Manila, to ensure that it will be able to withstand strong winds. RAYMOND ELICO

Actress-TV host faces multiple raps, says cop

By Kristine Felice Marquez

THE ACTRESS-television host who crashed her sport utility vehicle into a road fence and hit a car while allegedly driving under the influence of liquor faces second charges once she is released from the hospital.

Supt. Emmanuel Taberna, Muntinlupa police spokesperson, told the Inquirer in a phone interview that Alessi Alano, whose real name is Jennifer Laxa, will also be held liable for the damage she caused to the lone vehicle hit by the Mitsubishi Montero sport utility vehicle (SUV) she was driving.

Supt. Emmanuel Taberna, Muntinlupa police spokesperson, told the Inquirer in a phone interview that Alessi Alano, whose real name is Jennifer Laxa, will also be held liable for the damage she caused to the lone vehicle hit by the Mitsubishi Montero sport utility vehicle (SUV) she was driving.

Alano, meanwhile, will undergo an operation to close the wound made by a steel bar from the lone vehicle penetrated her hip.

Her camp has denied that she was drunk at the time of the accident but the police said they found a beer bottle inside her vehicle while rescuers who came to her aid reported that they smelled alcohol on her breath.

No PDEA standoff: Oh yeah!

ON TARGET
Nanette Teffo

DESPITE the denial by Senate Amnesty Lacson, chief of the public information office of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), a team shootout took place inside the office of the PDEA chief, Director General Aaron Gutierrez.

I found by my report to this column of Oct. 8 that nine PDEA agents confronted Gutierrez and Zeke Lachica, chief of the agency's intelligence and investigation division, over the punishment meted out on the agents by their big boss.

My PDEA sources insist the confrontation took place.

Gutierrez and Lachica, my sources said, called members of special enforcement service (SES), PDEA's version of the police's SWAT and after they were confronted by the rear agents.

The SES members went to Gutierrez's office and once there, after the exchange of guns was heard by other PDEA employees.

My sources said SES members carried M-16 rifles instead of Tavor, Israeli-made assault rifles.

Since my sources said SES weapons carried "matakaliber" (drug guns), I assumed the guns were M-16s.

"What really happened that day was, against from the Special Enforcement Service were called in to escort and secure the Director General, who was going to the Department of Justice for a meeting," said Gutierrez, in a letter published in the Opinion section of this paper last week.

But why would the SES weapons such to the office of the Director General, with their guns, and then escort the same agents out of Gutierrez's office?

The answer is obvious: There was a heated argument between Gutierrez and Lachica, on one hand, and the nine agents, on the other hand, over why the latter were punished when they allegedly gave Gutierrez and Lachica P2 million and P3 million, respectively, as their share of the P6 million that was allegedly extorted from a suspected Chinese drug trafficker.

The PDEA does not deny the P6-million payoff.

* * *

Are posts and rebates in a condominium unit included in the purchased price?

The Dr. Dennis Square Development Corp., owner of the posh DSA Duby Towers in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, allegedly included posts and rebates in the space the owners bought.

Businessman Richard King, who earlier complained to this writer about not being allowed to add a mezzanine floor to his unit by the DSA Duby Towers developer, now complains that the post inside his unit was included in the space that was bought.

The post occupies three square meters or about three percent of the 37 square meters of his unit, said King.

King's unit cost P18 million, or about P486,000 per square meter.

* * *

My friend Pompoy "Boy" Pineda and his camera-wielding wife, Tanit, have completed their debits and credits and have handed on the reins of their house from the 9th Tower view under construction in Quezon City.

Boy says he has completed in the construction fitness bonanza Corp., to an end.

Viewers may when well-known TV host Willie Revillame, who owns the condominium under construction, reads this he will become the condo's co

Don't leave trash behind, 'zombasura' warned

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AHEAD of the annual commemoration of the dead on Nov. 1, or all Souls Day, an environmental group has warned people who will be visiting their departed loved ones in cemeteries and memorial parks not to leave their trash behind.

The Eco-Waste Coalition, a group advocating waste prevention and reduction, likewise sought the strict implementation of the antilittering law against people they describe as "zombasura."

"Zombasura," a term coined by the group, combines the words "zombie" and "basura (garbage)" to describe litterbugs who dump trash inside cemeteries.

In a statement, Eco-Waste Coalition head member Benny Hidalgo said: "The festive occasion is not an excuse for litterbugs to drop and defile the cemeteries and streets! Desist from lurid to disgusting grounds."

A cemetery, being hallowed ground, deserves utmost respect, he added.

The Eco-Waste Coalition therefore urged the government to strictly implement Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which penalizes litterbugs with a fine ranging from P500 to P1,000, or doing community service at the local government unit where the act was committed.

So-called "spot" policemen were not spared by the environmental group which told them to refrain from putting up banners and streamers inside the cemeteries.

The group instead offered a proposal for politicians to post their successes and provide segregated waste bins, portable toilet, clean toilets, and first aid services inside the cemeteries.

Hidalgo pointed out that politicians could also engage the services of personnel to act as antilittering enforcers and street sweepers in the cemeteries and nearby barangays.

DID YOU KNOW

MTB's figure of over 500 establishments did not include the National Capital Region posted the highest number of establishments under Administrative and Support Service Activities which include business support activities like call centers and collection agencies, according to the 2010 Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry. **Source: Dindo Inquiar Rosario**

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF LAPU-LAPU
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE PURCHASE OF 1 UNIT ELECTRIC DEBUSHING SET

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF LAPU-LAPU, through the Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum of ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,305,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the PURCHASE OF 1 UNIT ELECTRIC DEBUSHING SET. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

1. The CITY OF LAPU-LAPU now invites bids for **the purchase of one (1) unit Electric Debushing Set** with the following specifications: **ONE (1) UNIT 15KV, 600A, 60HZ, 3PH, 1 MINUTE, 95KV BIL, 1.2/50 MICROSECOND IMPULSE WITHSTAND, 60HZ, 1 MINUTE, 34.5KV, 200A RMS SYMMETRICAL INTERRUPTING CAPACITY, 1 MINUTE, 34.5KV, 200A RMS CLOSING AND LATCHING CAPACITY, 1 MINUTE, 34.5KV, 200A RMS MOMENTARY CURRENT, 1 MINUTE, 34.5KV, 8 STROKES, 10KA CREST, 1.5/40 MICROSECOND IMPULSE WITHSTAND, 1 MINUTE, 34.5KV, 1200A CONTINUOUS CURRENT, 1 MINUTE, 34.5KV, 1200A RMS INTERRUPTING CAPACITY, 1 MINUTE, 34.5KV, 1200A RMS MAKING CURRENT, 1 MINUTE, 34.5KV, 3 SECONDS, 1200A RMS SHORT TIME

The WORLD

Edited by Lawrence B. Casino

Sihanouk, longtime Cambodian leader; 89

SIHANOUK ... AP

SOMERSET: Sihanouk, the charismatic Cambodian leader whose remarkable skills of political adaptation personified for the world the ups, troubled kingdom where he was a towering figure through six decades, died early Monday in Beijing, his wife said.

The death was announced by Deputy Prime Minister Nhiek Bunchhay, quoted by news services. The former king had been dogged by ill health for years and regularly traveled to China for treatment.

Sihanouk was crowned king in 1941, when Franklin D. Roosevelt was president, and held on to some form of power for the next 60-plus years. He served as monarch, prime minister, figurehead of the communist revolution, leader in exile, and once again as king when he quit in 2004. He handed the crown to one of his sons, Norodom Sihamoni, after which he was known as the retired king, or the king father.

He survived colonial rule, the Khmer Rouge and the upheavals of the Cold War, but his last years were marked by reproaches of melancholy and by complained often about the poverty and abuses of what he called "my poor nation."

Alternately charming and ruthless, he dazzled world leaders with his political wit and, in the process, ruined the country of his small Southeast Asian nation. He won independence for Cambodia from the French colonial rulers in 1953, using diplomacy and repression to outmaneuver his domestic rivals but without resorting to arms as his neighbors in Vietnam had done.

He put his stamp on a modern society in the 1960s, especially balancing the education system, but his Buddhist social and political ideals soon collided with the country's political life and a coup in 1970 ousted him from power.

When the Vietnamese communists began using the port of Sihanoukville and Cambodia's eastern border as ship military supplies on what was known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail, he took steps to resume relations with the United States. He turned a blind eye when the Nixon administration undertook a secret bombing campaign in 1969 against the border area of Cambodia. But this only further unsettled his country and led to a coup that ousted him the next year.

Convinced that the US had been behind the overthrow, Sihanouk allied himself with the Khmer Rouge at the urging of his Chinese patrons, giving the Cambodian communists his prestige and numerous popularity. Their victory in 1975 brought the ruthless Pol Pot to power, with Sihanouk serving, for the first year, as the figurehead president until he was placed under house arrest and left into a deep depression. Over the next four years, the Khmer Rouge regime led to the death of 1.7 million people and nearly destroyed the country.

Overthrown throughout his life for those domestic shifts in allegiances, Sihanouk said he believed only one course in politics: "the defense of the independence, the territorial integrity and the dignity of my country and my people."

In late 1978, Buddhist-controlled the great powers, usually with the support of China, to ensure his survival as well as his country's independence. He won eighteen, he said in an interview, was to be pushed out of his country's political life once again.

Sihanouk, the former Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who died in obscurity in Paris in 1997. New York Times News Service

Syria using cluster bombs in battle, says rights group

BEIRUT—The Syrian regime was accused Sunday of dropping cluster bombs—indiscriminate submunition munitions banned by most nations—in a new sign of desperation and disregard for its own people.

The international group Human Rights Watch cited seven new video and testimony from the front lines in making the allegation. Against the protestations of President Bashar al-Assad.

Syria and Turkey meanwhile, declared their skies off limits to each other amid mounting cross-border tensions in Syria's 19-month-old conflict, now a civil war. Turkey is an outspoken backer of rebels trying to oust Assad.

The weekend's turmoil has an air of fighter a part of Turkey's increasingly aggressive stance toward Syria that has stirred concerns about a regional conflagration. In the past two weeks, Turkey has retaliated for stray Syrian shells and mortar rounds, intercepted a Syrian passenger plane on suspicion it carried military equipment, and—according to a Turkish newspaper on Sunday—sent heavy warships to naval bases north of the Syrian coastline.

Inside Syria, rebel fighters and regime forces have been locked in a bloody stalemate for weeks, with rebels holding large rural stretches in the border's populated north. Syria, but unable to dislodge Assad's troops from urban centers. During the summer, the regime escalated shelling and airstrikes on rebel-held neighborhoods.

Human Rights Watch said new amateur videos and interviews with residents support the Syrian air force has dropped cluster bombs in the past week, mainly along a main north-south highway in western Syria that runs through Maaret al-Numan, a town captured by rebels after fierce fighting.

Cluster bombs open in flight, scattering smaller bomblets over a wide area. Many of the bomblets do not explode immediately, posing a threat to civilians long afterward. AP

Girl shot by Taliban sent to UK for treatment

ISLAMABAD—A teenage Pakistani rights activist was flown to Britain for specialist treatment after she was shot by Taliban for campaigning for the right to education.

Malala Yousafzai, 14, who was attacked on her school bus in the former Taliban stronghold of the Swat valley last Tuesday, was sent abroad at a time when her condition is "optimal and therefore any unforeseen complications are in", the military said.

In an ambulance provided by the United Arab Emirates took off from Islamabad airport after they break, and Pakistani and an interpreter can specialist was accompanying her.

The shooting has been denounced worldwide and by Pakistan, which has said it will do everything possible to ensure Malala receives, paying for her treatment and offering more than $3 000 000 for the capture of her attackers.

MALALA Yousafzai

The cold-blooded murder attempt has aroused fury in Pakistan where Malala came to prominence with a blog for the BBC highlighting atrocities committed by the Taliban, who banned the Malakand valley from 2007 until a 2009 army offensive.

Activists say the shooting should be a wake-up call to Islamabad, which has come under pressure with the Taliban, but analysts suspect there will be no significant change in a country that has sponsored militant factions for decades.

On Tuesday, tens of thousands people gathered in Karachi in support of Malala. AFP

Obama's goal: Don't repeat mistakes of last debate

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia—To prepare for the second round of the presidential debates, President Barack Obama retreated this weekend to the confines of this historic village, where aides in 1960s costumes gath wonder about spouting off in colonial dialect.

But as Obama huddled with close aides on the spectacular terrace grounds of what was the Kingsmill Plantation in the 17th century, the history that dominated his presidential study sessions was of a far more recent kind, how not to repeat the mistakes he made in his first debate with Mitt Romney a week and a half ago, when he stood by passively as an aggressive Romney dominated him, abruptly outtalking Obama's moderation and running the campaign upside down.

The president and his aides were closely taking debate prep far more seriously this time around. Obama has scheduled more time, and his aides say that they will try to keep interruptions to a minimum. He is on Jerusalem's watch one, Joel Benenson, golf courses, but he did not bring his clubs and had no plans to hit the links. There will not be any visits to historic sites the pal Bob. for going to Hoover Dam when he was supposed to be studying for the last debate, the moment, the aide off-campus excursion. Sunday took only half an hour. It was in a campaign field office, where he made a few phone calls to volunteers, delivered pizzas to staffers, and posed motionless for a beer propaganda photo.

Intergenerally, a Reuters/Ipsos/Washington Post tracking poll released Monday showed Obama leading Romney 49 percent to 44 percent among likely voters, a statistical dead heat. Obama's lead in the Reuters/Ipsos poll was within the margin of error, but it was the first time since the first debate that any survey had shown the president ahead.

Meanwhile, Romney's campaign was taking place at the president's James River retreat—called Camp David—in the James." The cars, which glided to the river...in clear view of the main building where Obama was doing his prep sessions—were accompanied by the ubiquitous Secret Service types, who stood around the cars, while rubber-tired limousines with various undercarriages. No word on whether the president found it disturbing.

This time, instead of focusing on the nuts and bolts of debate limits—as one Obama debate prep session to hone up on Americans troop withdrawals from Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, for instance—Obama is practicing how to challenge Romney's main thing he inexplicably shot away from in Denver on Oct. 3.

"This isn't a guy who needs to be grilled on facts," one Obama aide said of the president. "What he needs to work on is stylistics." Translation: how to access memory of reviving the facts without sounding rude. New York Times News Service

WORLD BRIEFS

Woman must relinquish Kafka papers, judge says

JERUSALEM—An Israeli judge has ruled that a huge trove of documents written by Franz Kafka and his friend Max Brod that have been hidden from view for decades must be turned over to Israel's national library, which agrees with the author's wishes. The ruling, made public Sunday, came after a lengthy legal battle that divided literary scholars around the world and pitted the government of Israel against the reclusive daughter of Brod's former secretary, who had possession of the papers and held some of them for millions of dollars. The archive included tens of thousands of pages, most of them written by Brod, a prolific journalist and novelist who carried a suitcase of Kafka's work with him when he fled to Tel Aviv from Prague in 1939. Esth Raiz, who is handing over the second dissertation on Brod at the University of Haifa, said the material included letters, sketches and notations by Kafka—"1,001 things that are in the archive that was closed to research for 48 years." New York Times News Service

Russian ruling party shows strength

MOSCOW—Russians voted in nearly 5,000 regional and local elections on Sunday, as opposition candidates tried to take advantage of electoral irregularities last year in response to demands for more political competition. The polls closed, though candidates from United Russia, the ruling party of President Vladimir V. Putin, were favored to win most races, and a few turnout in some places was bolstered to weak fields of competitors. Still, pro-Kremlin incumbents were poised to win in all the elections for governors — including two who were considered so unpopular that they were advisable to Communist Party challengers. New York Times News Service

Mauritania says president shot accidentally

DAKAR, Senegal—The president of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, was shot and wounded while returning home from a country weekend on Saturday evening in what his spokesman said Sunday was an accidental shooting by a nervous soldier. That explanation was echoed by the official Mauritanian news agency on its website, and by the wounded president himself in a rushed televised declaration on the state broadcaster from his military hospital bed, shortly before being flown to Paris for further treatment Sunday. But the shooting took place in a hospital regional capital, which added fuel to the former generals who led power in 2008 coup and was later elected in one of the few leaders to have successfully fought al-Qaida's local franchise, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, on the battlefield. The group, which now controls northern Mali, has previously declared the Mauritanian president a sworn enemy. In addition, Abdel Aziz presides over a desert nation of chronic political instability. Two coups d'état since 2005 and several aggressions against the al-Qaida faction. Those factors have already led some commentators to see a visible link between Mauritanian security and the Libyan leftist oil to Republique Islamique de Mauritanie, to question the official narrative of Saturday's shooting. New York Times News Service

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development, Central Visayas
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

DOH-ANCILLARY COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CHDCV), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to bid for the following project(s):

BID NO.	NAME OF PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (PhP)	PLACE OF BID DELIVERY/ DELIVERY (DAY)
BAC - 47b	PROCUREMENT OF ICT EQUIPMENT	1,000,000.00	7,000.00
BAC - 47c	PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000,000.00	1,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC/approved project for bidding. The eligibility check of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders. The Eligibility Check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particular criteria in Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Bid Opening, Bid Evaluation, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 16 - November 5, 2012 (Monday to Wednesday between 8:00AM to 5:00PM)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 26, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. Regional Conference Room DOH-CHDCV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
3. Opening of Bids	November 5, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Regional Conference Room DOH-CHDCV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of PhP 7,000.00 and 1,000.00 for the amendments (which is the total amount of PhP 8,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Bids submitted in excess of the said amount shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. Cash bids shall not be accepted.

The Department of Health - DOH Central Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the Bidding process, and to postpone Bid at any time prior to the award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Department of Health - DOH Central Visayas
Mrs. Elizabeth T. Tabuga - Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
Telephone Nos. (032) 414-0400
Telefax No. (032) 414-0400
www.doh7.doh.gov.ph
BAC - DOH-CHDCV

Atty. [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], M.D.
BAC Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Quezon City
REGIONAL ANCILLARY COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Central Visayas Regional Medical Center now invites Accredited Suppliers and Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following:

Item No.	Description	Quantity
1	Purchase of Medical Equipment	1 unit
2	Purchase of Medical Equipment	1 unit
3	Purchase of Medical Equipment	1 unit
4	Purchase of Office Supplies	1 unit

2. Bids must be delivered to the [illegible] Office, Central Visayas Regional Medical Center, Quezon City on or before 2:00 P.M. of [illegible]. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the following schedule:

Item No.	Category
[illegible]	Purchase of Medical Equipment
[illegible]	Purchase of Medical Equipment
[illegible]	Purchase of Medical Equipment
[illegible]	Purchase of Office Supplies

3. Bids must be submitted to the [illegible] Office, Central Visayas Regional Medical Center, Quezon City on or before 2:00 P.M. of [illegible]. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the following schedule:

4. The Central Visayas Regional Medical Center reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any bidder in accordance with Republic Act 9184 and its revised IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

5. [illegible]

6. [illegible]

[illegible]
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

As always, we first listened to what you had to say about cloud computing, and we have responded. The PLDT Cloud is an apex of a story built on the strengths of our nationwidest network as well as geographically diverse VITRO data centers.

We took your insights to heart: how you value data security and sovereignty, how you need a provider you can absolutely trust. PLDT has the financial and technical leadership to give you cloud solutions that are secure, reliable, and totally under your control.

This is the cloud as promised. The PLDT Cloud is anchored on our infrastructure leadership, and built on your trust.

PLDT
Cloud

PLDT ALPHA

PLDT smartcon

Call 88-ALPHA (25742) www.pldtcloud.com
https://marketplace.pldtcloud.com

IN THIS ISSUE

- PLDT, Smart to spend P856M on new cable route /B2
- PH exporters in line for tax credit refunds worth P1.5B /B4

Editor: Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Cornie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

"There's a new efficient way to manage your company's business."
The Solution? SMARKET.
Supermarket MIS
Point-of-sale system
Inventory system
Accounting system
Payroll system
Warehousing system
Purchasing system
Sales analysis system
Multi-store system
Multi-user system
Multi-terminal system
Multi-currency system
Multi-language system
Multi-tasking system
Multi-platform system
Multi-media system
Multi-purpose system
Multi-function system
Multi-level system
Multi-dimensional system
Multi-faceted system
Multi-layered system
Multi-tiered system
Multi-stage system
Multi-step system
Multi-phase system
Multi-part system
Multi-piece system
Multi-component system
Multi-element system
Multi-unit system
Multi-module system
Multi-section system
Multi-chapter system
Multi-volume system
Multi-book system
Multi-page system
Multi-sheet system
Multi-leaf system
Multi-fold system
Multi-ply system
Multi-layer system
Multi-coat system
Multi-color system
Multi-tone system
Multi-shade system
Multi-hue system
Multi-tint system
Multi-texture system
Multi-pattern system
Multi-design system
Multi-image system
Multi-picture system
Multi-graphic system
Multi-illustration system
Multi-photo system
Multi-video system
Multi-audio system
Multi-sound system
Multi-voice system
Multi-speech system
Multi-language system
Multi-dialect system
Multi-accent system
Multi-tone system
Multi-pitch system
Multi-volume system
Multi-loudness system
Multi-speed system
Multi-rhythm system
Multi-beat system
Multi-tempo system
Multi-meter system
Multi-key system
Multi-scale system
Multi-mode system
Multi-chord system
Multi-harmony system
Multi-melody system
Multi-counterpoint system
Multi-polyphony system
Multi-homophony system
Multi-monophony system
Multi-heterophony system
Multi-organum system
Multi-discant system
Multi-conductus system
Multi-motet system
Multi-chanson system
Multi-madrigal system
Multi-ballata system
Multi-caccia system
Multi-frottola system
Multi-lauda system
Multi-laude system
Multi-canzona system
Multi-villanella system
Multi-villanesca system
Multi-villotta system
Multi-villancico

PLDT, Smart to spend ₱856M on new cable route

Move to boost services to Visayas, Mindanao

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is laying down more fiber cable in the Visayas area to strengthen its nationwide backbone, allowing the company to deliver high-quality fixed or mobile services to more areas in the country.

In a statement, PLDT said its mobile unit Smart Communications unit they would spend ₱856 million on an "all-new" fiber optic cable route that would connect Cebu in Bohol and run up to Misamis Oriental.

"This new facility, which will be completed by September 2013, will significantly boost the resiliency of PLDT transmission links in Bohol and the entire island of Mindanao," the statement said.

"We have fast tracked this particular project because the demand for broadband services—both from consumers and businesses...is growing rapidly in the Visayas and Mindanao areas," said Rolando Pefia, PLDT and Smart head of network and IT systems.

"This will further strengthen our fiber infrastructure in these countries. In this point, PLDT and Smart already have over 54,000 kilometers of fiber optic cable assets across the country—several times larger than the resources available to the competition," he added.

The project involves laying down a total of about 450 km of fiber optic cables from Cebu to Cagayan de Oro City.

More than 300 kilometers of cable will be inland while another 150 km will be under links in the sea between Cebu and Bohol and between Bohol and Misamis Oriental.

PLDT said the project would enable the carrier's provincial customers to pursue more aggressively their efforts to attract investments from business process outsourcing companies.

"Bohol has been trying to get investors to set up call centers in the province for the past several years. But the lack of robust communications infrastructure has been an obstacle," Pefia said.

Bohol's tourist arrivals hit the 850,000 mark last year, up from about 800,000 in 2009. The number is expected to rise further as more visitors take to the province's famous beach resorts and eco-tourism attractions.

"More and more tourists now routinely expect to have luxurious access to their hotels, or on their smart phones, laptops or tablets. With the fiber link to Bohol, we will be better able to support high-speed mobile and fixed broadband," he added.

The project will also add a third leg to the two fiber optic highways already connecting Mindanao to the rest of the country through PLDT's domestic fiber optic network.

Ayala unit seeks to expand in Europe

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA LED Integrated Micro-Electronics Inc., a leading provider of electronics manufacturing services and power semiconductor assembly and tests services around the world, is keen on expanding its business in Europe.

IMI announced yesterday that it would join the Electronica 2012 trade show, one of the major global trade fairs for electronic products, systems, components and applications, in Munich, Germany, from Nov. 13 to 16 this year.

IMI, which has 17 manufacturing sites across the globe, including three in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, intends to showcase in the trade fair its "innovative, flexible and cost-effective solutions," which include high-value product design and development and manufacturing capabilities for diverse markets like automotive, industrial, medical, communications infrastructure and renewable energy.

"Our company booth will focus on products for significant emerging applications of electronics aligned with our goal to be known as a company that drives innovation. The exhibit is also an opportunity for us to show the world that the Philippines is squarely back in contention as among the world's best in the electronics field," IMI president and chief executive Arthur Tan said in a statement.

"We want to engage business with European original electronics makers who now contribute about half of our total company revenues. We foresee increasing their share with more programs for the automotive, industrial, medical and communications segments," Tan added.

In the first half of the year, IMI sales to European OEMs expanded by 27 percent over the same period in 2011.

IMI has 17 manufacturing sites in seven countries around the world. It ranks 24th among the Top 50 list of electronic manufacturing service (EMS) providers ranked by trade newsletter Manufacturing Market Insider. Apart from its manufacturing sites in eastern Europe, it has production facilities in the Philippines, China, Singapore, the United States and Mexico.

The company grew its first semester net profit by 37% percent year-on-year to ₱1.1 million despite a weak global environment. The income growth was primarily attributed to IMI's expansion in Europe and Mexico, increased business from the Philippine operations and reduced operating expenses, its subsidiaries in Europe and Mexico contributed ₱65.7 million in revenues in the first six months.

From Q1-Q3, auto importers saw 20% rise in sales

But supply shortage took its toll on group's earnings in Sept.

By Rita T. Ochoterra

VEHICLE importers yesterday reported that, from January to September, their combined sales grew 20 percent year-on-year with both passenger car and light commercial vehicle (LCV) segments improving.

The Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors Inc. (AVID) pointed to a record sales figure of 20,762 units in the first nine months of 2012, from 16,686 units in the same period last year.

In the nine months to September, passenger car sales maintained a robust pace with 38 percent growth to 12,991 units sold.

Leading the pack during the period were Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (Honda), The Covenant Car Company Inc. (Chevrolet) and Hyundai Asia Resources Inc., posting 31 percent, 26 percent, and 15 percent growth, respectively.

The LCV category rose a 1 percent growth to 8,021 units sold from the 8,740 units reported in the first nine months of 2011.

For the month of September alone, total sales fell by 9 percent year-on-year on the back of "supply shortage" and "delayed shipment" in passenger cars, sold said.

Passenger car sales plunged 22 percent to 462 from 1,296 last year. LCV sales rose by 11 percent on "strong consumer demand" during the month, with 1,385 units sold as opposed to the 770 units reported last year.

"We are proud to remain a bright spot in overall industry performance. Despite the ups and downs of the global economy, the local business and economic environment has kept a steady upbeat pace, which augurs very well for all third members," Avid president Ms. Rose Aguado said in a statement.

The Philippine economy is widely expected to remain fundamentally strong despite lingering uncertainty in the United States and Europe.

In the World Economic Forum's (Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013, the Philippines ranked 65th among 144 countries...up from 75th place the previous year due to marked improvements in the pillars of government, the macroeconomic environment, and financial market efficiency.

Moving into the last quarter of 2012, the government hopes that full-year economic growth will hit the high end of the target, which ranges between 5 and 6 percent for the year on accelerated public and private spending, along with the onset of the holiday season and the start of campaigning for the 2013 elections.

Meanwhile, multilateral lenders like the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund agree that gross domestic production growth may reach 4.9 percent for this year and the next.

"Backed by favorable economic fundamentals, we are optimistic that our respective numbers are more than ready to invest in any of our powerhouse portfolios. And we are all set to offer our customers nothing less than excellent products and services," Aguado said.

Apart from Mitt Cooper distributor Honda, United Automobiles Inc., Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. and Chevrolet distributor The Covenant Car Company Inc. (TCCCI), the other members of Avid are Mercedes-Benz distributor GIVA Motors Inc., Volvo distributor Scandinavian Motors and Subaru distributor Motor Image Filipinas Inc.

CAB: What's good for passengers may hit airlines' bottom line

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PASSENGERS may soon board and disembark in sealed rating airport aerobridges, something the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) is pushing for to address public clamor for improved service.

But local airliners may not like the idea since passengers who use the stairs will translate to a more efficient use of their aircraft.

"We already had reconciliations with the airlines on the issue last week," CAB Executive Director Carmela Ariella said in an interview. "We asked them to submit position papers."

The issue is an offshoot of recent efforts to come up with a "bill of rights" for airline passengers as the government cracks down on alleged abuses such as overbooking of flights by carriers.

The CAB, Ariella said, is considering forcing airliners to use aerobridges in airports where these facilities are available.

Airlines are increasingly opting to use stairs because doing allow for the faster "deplaning" of aircraft, he added.

The faster a plane can be emptied and filled up again with passengers, the more flights can be measured and the more money an airline makes.

Ariella said using aerobridges, while slower, would represent a small direct cost for airliners.

"That's just P5 per passenger," Ariella said. "The issue for them is the quick turnaround of planes. We are still studying and we will evaluate all their positions."

He acknowledged that the proposed rule would run counter to the global trend of giving airliners the choice between bridges and stairs.

But Ariella said the government's main goal would be to protect the rights of passengers, not look after airliners.

Cebu Pacific, which serves more passengers than any other local airline, declined to comment on the matter, adding that it would file a position paper this week.

The passenger bill of rights is currently being drafted by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), in cooperation with the Senate and the Trade and Industry department.

More stock plays

MARKET RIDER

Dexi Sisnorra

PEOPLE outside September to be a bad period when it actually turned out to be a good month. October also appears to be turning out to be something different.

Equity markets worldwide traditionally commits October to be a bad month. In the United States, it is regarded as "the month of market crashes" after three major disasters in the history of its stock market occurred in October.

Interestingly, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, the American business writer known as Mark Twain, appeared to be familiar with the notoriety of the month, too. Possibly an astute reader of market news before his time, he also nominated (in part) that "October ... is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks..."

He made this fascinating remark in his novel "Pudd'nhead Wilson," which appeared in serial form from 1893 to 1894. The novel is about "a young lawyer (David Wilson) who moved into the fictional Missouri Border town of Dawson Landing on the banks of the Mississippi River in the first half of the 19th century."

Local town hall is the story misunderstood his "clever" remark, and he was branded "Pudd'nhead Wilson," a misfit.

Major US disasters

The first stock market crash that hit the United States was on Oct. 28, 1929, at the beginning of the Great Depression. The Dow plunged 12.8 percent this day. In the following days, the market eventually lost about 90 percent of its value.

The next was on Oct. 19, 1987, more popularly known as the "Black Monday." This was more severe than the crash of 1929. According to accounts, "the crash began in Hong Kong and spread west to Europe."

"The Dow lost 22.6 percent of its value in one day. It was estimated that the stock market lost US$1 trillion in value over the next few weeks (after October 19)."

I was already in the stock market then, it was at this time that regulators "mentioned safeguards to help prevent, or at least slow down, markets in free fall. A certain percentage of price loss in a stock during the trading session, the exchanges will halt trading."

The trading halts called by regulators will "range from an hour or more," in extraordinary situations. Trading may be "suspended for the rest of the day."

The third is the market meltdown of October 2008. "The S&P 500 was down by more than 27 percent at one point of the month." Investigation reports say that "the problem of the market crash started months before, but October was the worst month."

There is no question that these three market disasters inflicted considerable damage to investors. The one in 1987, however, as said, has "provided a unique buying opportunity."

The opportunity offered by the latest market meltdown is yet to be seen. Stock prices have risen, but are generally facing some resistance due to weak economic and financial conditions in the US and Europe. But for the long-term investors the world-over were able to display strong capabilities to survive market disasters, better economic times will augur well to a certain market rallies.

APM play

Doing exactly now the kind of stock play contemplated when the market comes around is the forum is Ahrens Gold Resources Corp. (APM). Like Pilar Gen Corp. (PGEN), which I wrote about last week, APM burst into market play and interest recently. On Aug. 29, the market price of APM was doing between PHP0.75-PHP0.84 a share.

APM was formerly Alcorn Petroleum and Mineral Resources Corp. that was incorporated on Jan. 19, 1966. Back then, it was "primarily engaged in the exploration, development and production of oil, gas and metallic and nonmetallic resources." It was listed at the bourse on Sept. 26, 1966, under the trading symbol "APM," which it uses up to now in the trading of its shares.

The primary purpose of the company was amended on Oct. 6, 1999. Stockholders transformed the company into a holding firm. Besides APM's previous investments are only in the oil and mineral exploration and production sectors but to other business sectors such as energy utilities and other industries that will fit the company's objectives."

In this connection, the change in the company's corporate name also signified the change of controlling parties. As reported, the current board members are: Eduardo Hernandez Ichiart, Leonardo E. Dizon (president), Angel Ty Tan, Lucio L. Co, Jaime S. dela Rosa and Robert Y. Cokeng and Oscar U. Reyes (independent directors).

Obviously a plum member of the board only in the absence regular, the company is said to be controlled by Lucio L. Co.

On the PSE website, APM is said to be both "a major and minor partner in several areas in exploring for oil in various petroleum concession areas. Among the companies of interest is Service Contract 14 (SC14) on Nanulk, west Palawan, which includes the Libertad (Galoc) oil SC 14, whose production is temporarily suspended."

The company "also holds non-approved exploration permits for gold and copper properties located in Mindoro and Iloilo. The company is now preparing for a comprehensive project to develop its petroleum and mineral concessions, engaging local communities."

Last Friday, APM opened at P0.1050 and closed at the session's high of P0.975. This meant that its price went up by 28.31 percent from the day it was only on Oct. 2 that the price of APM noticeably started to actually move. Its price then traded between P0.821 to P0.825. Volume suddenly increased that public participation has obviously set in. Total trading volume for the last two years piled in competition to APM's daily trading volume last week.

Bottom line spin

According to the PSE website, "since the oil production suspension, APM had no principal products or services for the past three years, indicating the relative contribution to sales or revenues of each product or service."

Based on that, "APM has an EPS (earnings per share) of P0.000986 for the year ending 2012 and an income (first semester 2012) earnings report of P0.00002 per share."

It has "a free float of 40 percent; an outstanding shares of 127.5 billion, of which 76 billion is listed."

Above all these and despite an earlier declaimer, APM is rumored to become the holding company of Lucio Co.

(The writer is a licensed stockbroker of Eagle Equities Inc. You may reach the Market Rider at marketrider@inquirer.com.ph, dexisisnorra@gmail.com or at www.bagsik.com)

From the Ivatans of Batanes to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-Tawi

"Uniting the Filipino People"

JRS EXPRESS

www.jrs-express.com

YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

PH exporters in line for tax credit refunds worth ₱1.5B

Can't buy enough locals to cover refund, traders told

Let peso weaken further, ipo't urged

Phoenix Petroleum completes acquisition of ship

PNOC EC seeks partners for SC 37

Nickel Asia shipments up 16% in 9 mos

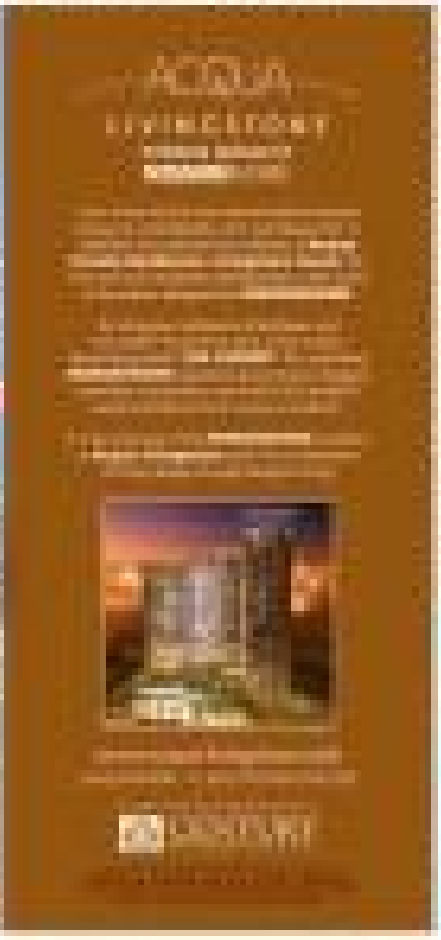
Offtake agreement for Didipio signed

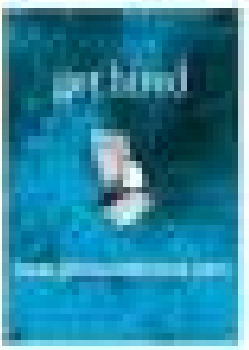
PH jobless rate unchanged despite GDP growth

HR misses Semestrals target

Remittances rose 7.6% to $1.8 billion in August

Stocks continue to climb





People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Joseph Arcano

Globe launches unlimited roaming services for data, calls, and texts to enjoy worry-free mobile connection outside the PH

AS PART of its thrust on superior customer experience, Globe Telecom unveils one of the world's first-ever all-unlimited roaming service covering calls, texts, and mobile internet, preserving its roaming subscribers from billshock, or the high surge of charges on a postpaid bill.

With Globe All-Unli Roam, postpaid subscribers on roaming can now subscribe to any of the three (3) unlimited roaming combo services to enjoy worry-free mobile connection. From October 15 to November 12, 2012, Globe postpaid subscribers visiting Thailand can register to any of the 3 roaming combos available.

Unlimited roaming mobile internet is available for US$10 for the 1-day variant and US$27 for the 3-day variant. The unlimited roaming calls and mobile internet combo is offered at US$80 for the 1-day variant and US$90 for the 3-day variant. Finally, the unlimited roaming calls, texts, and mobile internet combo is available for US$40 for the 1-day variant and US$120 for the 3-day variant.

The all-unlimited roaming services will cover Globe postpaid subscribers on roaming in Thailand, covering all major networks in the country such as Advanced Info Service Public (AIS), Total Access Communication (DTAC) and True Move Company Limited. This will benefit subscribers as they don't have to manually latch on to a specific partner-operator because the system covers all local operators in Thailand.

"Globe already has the world-widest roaming coverage with partnerships spanning across 200 countries and with more than 460 mobile operators across the globe. We also have the widest range of roaming offers and promos, with our unlimited roaming internet promo available in 10 countries, and our PowerSmart offer which is fully customizable with up to 75% discount on roaming rates available in 16 destinations," said Rissa Mendigo-Bala, Head for International Business Group at Globe.

Bala added, "We always strive harder to provide our subscribers, no matter where they are, with relevant and value-for-money offers that give them seamless and hassle-free connectivity across the world, allowing them to stay connected with people who matter most to them. Globe All-Unli Roam testifies to this commitment. With this value promise, Globe is gearing up to offer more innovative solutions covering more destinations in the future, as we continue to proactively address the needs of our travel segment."

Furthermore, this promo requires its subscribers to customize offers according to their needs and lifestyle, which is what the Globe brand is known for."

To register to the Globe All-Unli Roam promos, postpaid subscribers can dial *143# (toll-free even while on roaming), select "ROAMING PROMOS" and then select "All-Unli." As SMS confirmations will be sent to the subscribers with the terms and conditions applicable to the promo selected.

GLOBE head for international business Rissa Mendigo-Bala announces the launch of Globe All-Unli Roam, the world's first-ever all-unlimited roaming service covering calls, texts, and mobile internet, preserving its roaming subscribers from billshock.

GLOBE executives share that registration to the promo is a cinch. Dial *143# (toll-free even while on roaming), select "ROAMING PROMOS" and then select "All-Unli."

A Globe International Services brochure with the portfolio of international offers and promos helps subscribers understand how it is to travel worry-free just by using Globe connected.

Bits & Chips

San Beda College Alabang celebrates 40th anniversary

IT WAS from 10 pupils since San Beda College Alabang (then known as Benedictine Mercy School and later renamed St. Benedict College in 1988) opened its doors to 176 pre-school children in the morning of July 10, 1972. Anticipating further turnout in the streets of Manila as Manila Lee was set to be proclaimed, the Benedictine Monks decided to open as a new campus on a hilly tract of Muntinlupa (formerly part of the province of Rizal) from its old site in Mendiola, Manila. Sure enough, the place serves as a breath of fresh air not only for its founding congregation as well as to more than 40 decades. As it celebrates its Ruby (40th) anniversary this year, the institution came up with various historical, religious and social activities for the entire school year (2012-2013) that relives its glorious past and looks beyond the 21st century. To mark this momentous 40th year milestone, the College adopted the theme "One Community: A Shared Destiny, Moving Ahead at 40." The celebration kicked off in the early morning of July 10, 2012 with a Symbolic Ringing of the Bell, its tolling symbolizing that 40 years of SBCA. A remastermost of the mission school opening was witnessed by the Bedan community as well as the alumni representing the first 76 preschool pupils and the pioneer teachers who lovingly welcomed the first batch of SBCA students in 1972. This was followed by the opening of an exhibit entitled "40 Artists at Forty".

Dentsu Network announces appointment of Motnun as chairman & CEO for Asia

DENTSU Network announced the appointment, effective October 16, 2012, of Dick-van Motnun as CEO of Dentsu Asia Pte. Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dentsu Inc. Dentsu Asia, a regional management company under the umbrella of the Dentsu Network organization of operations outside of Japan, oversees operations in the ASEAN and Oceania region. Van Motnun, who obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Organizational Management from Windland University of Applied Sciences, has spent over 20 years in senior account and regional management positions at DMB&B, Leo Burnett and BDB in various European & Asian markets. Most recently he was President & CEO of DDB Group, Greater China. He began his career in 1989 in his native Netherlands. In his new role, van Motnun will be responsible for Dentsu Network operations in the ASEAN & Oceania region, reporting to Dentsu Network President and CEO, Tim Andrus. He will also be a member of the global Operating Committee. "This is a great time to be joining Dentsu," van Motnun said. "The agency is committed to become more global as well as dancard by its huge acquisitions and other moves they've made around the world, and I am eager to help Dentsu realize total synergy vision for the company. It is an exciting challenge that is a perfect fit with my experience and most importantly something I believe in."

Filipino cruise ship crew earns global honor

FILIPINO crew members of the Italian-based Costa Concordia cruise ship also recently accorded the Seafarer of the Year Award of the Lloyd's List Global Awards for 2012 in London for their consistently display of skill and professionalism where the ship struck a reef in Giglio Island, Italy in January this year. The prestigious award is given by the UK-based Lloyd's Register, one of the most important maritime industry classification societies in the world. Receiving the accolade on behalf of the Costa Concordia crew members are Assistant Bar Manager Sheila Dalas and waitress Janice Agsalo. "When the cruise ship Costa Concordia struck a reef off the island of Giglio on January 13, international attention inevitably focused on the actions of the master. But other stars tragically missed in the media storm that surrounded were the genuine examples of bravery and professionalism displayed by members of the crew. There are 1,023 people on board the vessel at the time of the casualty and while the tragic loss of life cannot by this regrettable incident will rightly be the subject of forensic investigations for some time to come, it should not be forgotten that without the skilled response of the majority of the crew, the loss-of-life could have been far higher," the citation said.

Red Bull and WWF launch environmental conservation contest

RED Bull Supreme Energy Drink has teamed up with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to launch RedBullerian era challenge geared to 18 to 21 students from across the country to inspire students to save the environment.

RedBullerian is an inter-collegiate and high school competition that aims to find alternative, innovative student-designed conservation solutions to address solid waste issues in the country, give them recognition and a grant to subscribe the project seeds.

The contest is open to school-based organizations or groups in universities, colleges and high schools. Deadline for submission of applications is November 20.

Contestants will present their plans/project proposals to a panel composed of Sen. Koko Pimentel, Cathy dela Merced, Rissy Gutierrez and representatives from RedBull and WWF.

A group of four students must accomplish a two-part application process that includes submission of a photo of an environmental issue concerning solid waste management that they want to address.

Successful applicants will then be contacted and will be asked to submit a project proposal, complete with an outline plan on how to address the problem.

Five groups will be shortlisted and will receive P5,000 as seed money to implement their project. Additional funding activities aside from RedBullerian are allowed.

Winners will receive a cash prize of P10,000 for project implementation.

ASIAN TERMINALS, CJ GLS SEAL LOGISTICS PARTNERSHIP

TO grow various customer-centric competitive and value-add cargo handling services, publicly-listed port operator Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) and global integrated logistics firm CJ GLS Philippines Inc. (CJ GLS) have recently sealed a strategic partnership which covers the setup for the cultivation and comprehensive handling of their ports and logistics expertise for the benefit of shippers. Under the memorandum of understanding, CJ GLS shall tap ATI to provide trucking and the Port of Batangas as preferred gateway ports for the import and export requirements of its customers thereby enabling it to bring full advantage of ATI's integrated and competitive cargo handling services – for containers, general cargo and ro-ro shipments – such as world-class facilities. Sealing the MOU through a handshake are CJ GLS Philippines managing director Seong-Ju Hong (seated) and ATI executive vice president Andrew Head (fourth and fifth from left, respectively). Other shown are, from left, CJ GLS production assistant manager Ma. Ryzza Kim, ATI senior manager Ma. Cristina Lim, ATI corporate secretary Atty. Vivencio Dizon, ATI vice president Emilio Nicanor Gonzalez III and ATI assistant vice president for marketing Jose Perez. ATI is the operator of the Manila International Container Port, the country's premier international gateway port, and the Batangas International Port, the country's premier domestic gateway port. It is also the country's largest integrated port operator with a new development in Batangan.

BREVILLE SIGNS UP ZUBIRI AS PRODUCT AMBASSADOR

ALIST BALATA Breville has signed up celebrity chef Jamie Zubiri as product ambassador for its brand market. The Breville Automatic Breadmaker (BBM800) is the perfect solution for those loved bread making, through it, Jamie Oliver's With Jamie at your fingertips, it's the ultimate tool for all your favorite bread recipes including gluten free, dough & jam. Whether it's pizza dough or a 2-Hour Banana Zubiri (BBM815),

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

BUSINESS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

CAR LOAN

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

RESTO FRANCHISE

WANTED TO BUY

ROLEX LOUIS VUITTON

CALL PDEA

More Classifieds

City Gov't. of Lapu-Lapu A29

Dept'l-PSHC A29

BHS A30

DHO-CHS Central Visayas A27

Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center A27

FACTORY OUTLET TILES AND LAMINATED FLOORING

350 DESIGNS WITH AVAILABLE STOCKS
CHEAP PRICES. BIG DISCOUNT FOR ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, AND DEALERS

CONTACT PERSON:
DOMENG: 0916-2806091, 0922-8578106,
AND JOY: 0999-4049193, 0917-8043073,
0922-8578103, 0949-8333284

Post your products for sale at
www.pinoybestdeals.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Name and address of Company/employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

OBITUARIES

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." – 2 Timothy 4:7

LOLITA OCILLOS SANTOS

died in the Grace of our Lord on October 11, 2012 at the age of 64.

Her family requests the presence of her relatives and friends in mourning from today until Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at San Lorenzo Chapel, St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and during the funeral on October 18, 2012 at Hinduyang Filipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

May Eternal Peace be granted unto her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

Ex-Mayor ANGEL T. BAUTISTA SR.

Has joined our Creator on October 13, 2012 at the age of 95

He is survived by his wife Lolita Bautista; sons & daughters **Edgardo, Angel Jr., Angelita, Merle, Joseph** and **Vic Vic**; sons-in-law & daughters-in-law **Chelito, Lito, Perlita, Evelyn** and **Lesley**; grandchildren **Gerdalisole-Enrique, Edgardo, Jr., Michael, Leocard/Mark, Jun-Jun/Paul, Angel III, Keyed Adrian, Ara Mariella, Felix Angelo, Orca Elisa, Scandro, Nicole, Clarice** and **Angelo**; great-grandchildren **Gabriel, Miggy & Patrick** and his nephews and nieces.

His remains lie at Ambassador Chapel, St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon Avenue corner Xavier Chamberos, QC until October 18, 2012 and will be transferred to his hometown at Baslay, Eastern Samar.

Interment to be announced later.

His family requests prayers from his relatives and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

Nestor Alcira Alconaba, Sr.

(Born: June 5, 1937)

passed away on Oct. 15 at the age of 75 after a long battle with illness.

He is survived by wife Elena, children Joy, Gemma, Nino, Jun and Don, and grandchildren Amil, Tuesday and Sid.

His body lies in state at the St. Peter's Chapels in Panacan, Davao City.

Interment on Thursday afternoon, 18 October 2012, at the Orchard Road, Davao City.

Evangel C. Flomentira

has joined our Creator on October 11, 2012 11:20 pm at the age of 40.

His remains lies at St. James Chapel, Forest Hill, St. Peter Chapels, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 16, 2012, 9:00 AM at Manila Memorial Park, Holy Cross, Quezon City.

We give all the Glory to our God Almighty!

ST. PETER CHAPELS

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

BUSINESS

13 'critical' natural gas projects identified

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has identified 13 "critical" natural gas projects in Luzon which should all be in place by 2030 to support an aggressive expansion of natural gas use in the power and transport sectors.

In the 2012-2030 Philippine Energy Plan, the DOE said three Luzon-based projects were considered "strategic infrastructure for receiving, storage, transmission and distribution" of natural gas.

Based on the presentation, the DOE identified nine priority natural gas pipeline projects, namely, the 105-kilometer Batangas-Manila Onshore LI pipeline which should be completed by 2017; 15-km Iwahig-West Boulevard (2017); 45-km Sucat-Malaya (2017); 50-km Sucat-Quezon (2020); 140-km Batam-Manila (Bataan 21, 40-km Metro Manila Extension or the ETEcoop (2020); 40-km Subic pipeline (2021); 20-km Clark pipeline (2022) and 40-km Batangas-Cavite (BatCave) Pipeline (2022).

The DOE also pointed out the need to have refilling stations for compressed natural gas (CNG) to be located in strategic places in Metro Manila by 2015. The target is to have about 1,000 CNG buses plying Metro Manila within the next several years.

Three terminal projects were also in the plan, namely, the LNG Hub Terminal in Pagbilao, Quezon, which is being undertaken by Hong Kong Energy World Corp. (2016); an LNG terminal in Batangas (2022-2030) and another one in Bataan, which should be operational by 2020.

The DOE is planning to bid out within the second half of 2013 the first phase of the 82.1-billion Batman 1 natural gas pipeline project. The project will be implemented in three phases.

Phase 1, in its undertakings by the government, will involve the construction of a 105-kilometer pipeline, while the second and third phases will involve the construction of the receiving terminal and power plant, respectively.

PNOC Pipeline Corp., a new subsidiary of state-run Philippine National Oil Co., is expected to bid out the engineering, procurement and construction contract, and the technical and maintenance agreement in 2013.

PLDT to pay up to P800M for IPVG data centers

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is set to pay as much as P800 million for data centers owned and operated by the IPVG group, which is dropping its nationality interests.

In a disclosure, PLDT said its unit ePLDT Inc., would acquire 100 percent of the leased and outstanding stock of IP Converge Inc., as soon as Jan.

"Shares to be subject to the [sale] acquisition cost is between P700 million and P800 million, depending on the achievement of certain financial targets for IP Converge for 2012," PLDT said, answering the Philippine Stock Exchange's queries.

"The final purchase price will be determined upon the issuance of the audited financial statements of IP Converge," according to the disclosure.

PLDT's plan to acquire IP Converge was announced last week. The move is in line with the company's strategy of expanding its corporate services portfolio.

LIFESTYLE Wellness

DR. GEORGE John

He's a doctor to tennis superstars

Sought-after surgeon George John was first lured to the court by Roger Federer, and once almost hurt his arm trying to stop Rafa Nadal's serve

By Joy Rojas
Contributor

WHEN DR. GEORGE John calls 2012 US Open tennis champion Andy Murray "very moody," runner-up Novak Djokovic "a crazy guy," seven-time Wimbledon champ Roger Federer "very formal," and seven-time French Open champ Rafael Nadal "a good guy," he is describing them not just through the eyes of a loyal fan.

Dr. John, an Indian national, is an orthopedic and sports medicine surgeon who has attended to the injuries of these and other top-level players. He was consultant and treatment doctor for the ATP/WTB Aceites Tennis Tv 2007 and 2008 seasons.

Relieving cramped calves and popping blisters, however, weren't Dr. John's only duties. Five years ago, when the doctor-dictated weeks at a time to commuting the arthroscopic pains of the best tennis players in major tournaments around the world, he went so far as red-flagging the likes of Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova from continuing a match—particularly when their injuries could compromise not only their game, but their health in the long run.

Sharapova was forced to bow out of one tournament when a sprained ligament caused her knee to swell. "She tried a lot," recalls Dr. John of the incident. "She tried to push on to get her back into the match, but we said no."

Of course, no athlete wants to be sidelined indefinitely, so some will try everything to prove a doctor's diagnosis wrong. Dr. John relishes with a chuckle the time Djokovic, then with a sprained knee, took it upon himself to remove the brace on his leg just 24 hours after his injury occurred.

"Jumping up and down, the next time up to see a day after and said, 'Whatever you want me to do, I'll do it! I'm perfectly fine! Doctor, I promise you, you can stretch me!'" says Dr. John, laughing at the thought. "So I told him, 'If you can stretch all the players, I'll let you go.'"

Djokovic then proceeded to do his best impressions of Federer, Nadal and Sharapova. When Dr. John agreed to sign the papers that would allow Djokovic to play, the tirelessly hugged him. "He's a crazy guy," chuckles

How these brides-to-be slimmed down for their wedding day

One skipped the burgers and the ramen, another tried the Fit for Life program, still another eschewed red meat and sweets

By Anne B. Jamboro

FOUR IT seems is walking down the aisle, most women feel they're never skinny enough. Those within the ideal weight mark still feel the need to lose, say, five pounds. If it means a thinner waistline and more defined shoulderoos. Even Duchess Kate Middleton, who was never big to begin with, reportedly used the Dukan Diet before her big day.

Exotic all-natural diets and popular fads vs. intervention and surgery, many women will do anything to embody the fantasy of the perfect bride. But the truth is, there is no such thing as the perfect bride.

"Every bride has flaws," said fashion designer Frederick Peralta, who has been designing wedding gowns for 20 years. "Many have insecurities about their looks. When they come to my shop, they reveal their flaws and concerns. Many feel they're limited to certain designs. I love to be sensitive to the concerns of these brides."

Whether it's the pressure to look stunning in a designer gown or to dive up to the epicenter of the glowing bride, brides have to endure head-to-foot scrutiny on their big day, even by their intimate pants. So how do brides when she says "I do" manages to her mojo than minute else.

Since her hesitancy bride-to-be Sheriza Ann Rosado, who works as a system administrator in Singapore. While her marriage to fiancé John Neil Castro is still almost three years away (on May 8, 2013), this chirpy 24-year-old already began her diet last September.

Crash diet

Shifted in the frightful world of crash diets...in college, she used to starve herself until she passed out and had to be rushed twice to the hospital by her parents—the 5'5" Bicolo said she initially wanted to lose weight when her fiancé teased her about her expanding waistline and bulging arms.

Since she started working in Singapore, Rosado said eating burgers, ramen and milk tea with pearls every day has resulted in her puffy cheeks and bulging belly. She ballooned to 130 pounds in less than six months.

To lose weight, she substituted a full meal for dinner with a 140-g cup of low-fat yogurt. If she still feels hungry after, she'll have a banana. She's skipped the burgers and the ramen, but continues to eat rice at lunchtime. Exercising is not an option; Rosado dislikes physical activity.

In two weeks, she lost 12 pounds. When her fiancé, based in the Philippines, dropped by for a visit, he was happily surprised but disturbed that she wasn't eating enough for dinner, so he started encouraging her to eat normally again.

Today, at 116 pounds, Rosado said she still needs to drop to 110 to look her best during her upcoming church wedding. One of her friends, Rochelle, set to get married in March 2013, has already lost 34 pounds in one month following her yogurt diet, and is now happily going to her gown fittings.

"It's a must for brides to do that," said Rosado. "The wedding day is the representation of the new her. For brides, it's one event where everything is handpicked, when the less than nonexplainable halo of a bride. As a designer, I have to embrace the figure but I'm not Vicky Belo. I do encourage going on a diet for those who don't needit."

THE YOGURT diet. Sheriza Ann Rosado has lost 12 pounds from 130 pounds since she began her diet on Sept. 6. She's aiming to lose eight more pounds by December.

NO MEAT. An anemia and fear of anorexia. Berlenie Antonio-Sollano went from 158 to 110 pounds, losing a total of 37 pounds.

FIT FOR Life. Vangie Bago-Reyes trimmed down from 120 to 110 for her wedding in Puerto Azul, Reyes on Dec. 1, 1998.

Aggie Cordova goes

As a food reporter, mean, while, it was nearly impossible for Vangie Bago-Reyes to go on a diet. But the 5'2" business journalist wanted to look perfect in her Aggie Cordova gown. When she started her diet, she went from 120 to 110 to reach her ideal weight, but also didn't want to deprive or starve herself doing that.

It was then that a friend introduced her to Fit for Life, a lifestyle modification program that follows strict food combination guidelines. Carbs, for example, are never combined with protein, but are okay to go with veggies.

Bago-Reyes only snacked on fruits. She cut down on dairy products, and no exercise either.

"My goal was not to be healthy but to look good on my wedding day," she said, laughing. In three months, she dropped to 105 pounds, exceeding her goal of 110. And she didn't have to starve herself to achieve that.

Athletic to sedentary

Berlenie Antonio-Sollano, for her part, had been very athletic in her youth, playing football and practicing taekwondo in college. She inevitably had the appetite of an athlete.

When she entered the workforce and became busy with work, she couldn't find time for exercise anymore. She lost her athletic stamina, less maintained the ravenous appetite. She was still eating rice regularly, sometimes even three cups of rice each meal, minus the entire lifestyle.

From 112-118 pounds, the petite 5'1" lady's weight went up to 158 pounds. It was a nightmare, she said, especially with the wedding day looming. So she joined the Jenny Craig Online "Biggest Loser" contest. Jillian Michaels's 30-day workout video and started working out every day. Then a week she topped around 129 could burn 6.7–7.0 a.m.

"I was really feeling better again, but Antonio-Sollano also recalled her diet in restaurants and food and sweets. She had a cheat day though, allowing herself a plate of bite-size Cadbury chocolate at least once a week.

She dropped to 120 pounds on her wedding day. Not as skinny as she might have wanted, but enough to make her, and her groom Jeffrey, smile.

Office bet

Then there's news reporter Tina Santos Tolipas, who dropped 20 pounds in two months by refusing to eat any form of carbs and sweets. With a wedding scheduled for January, she even managed to spend six more holidays treats in her diet.

She was confident about losing weight fast, she said, because she had already done so before in an office bet. A few years prior to her wedding, Santos-Tolipas bet P50,000 that she'd trim down 20 pounds in three months. And she did.

"It is a paradox that a bride about to marry the man who loves her for what and who she is, for her looks and her woes, wants to be better still," said psychiatrist Dr. Ricardo Soler. "But the last days simply fit to her wanting to be perfect on such a perfect day as her wedding. She may be beaten, bullied, and bruised on the occasion by her husband-to-be or for anyone else but herself."

According to Soler, so many as 70 percent of brides-to-be want to lose as much as 20 pounds. Mainly because they want to look their hottest, said or imagined, he said.

Indeed, a bride's wanting to lose weight by one means or another appears to be no more than a simple feminine caprice or fancy to look lovelier on her wedding day. Pray tell, what is wrong with that?

Ergonomically designed running shoes for the wet season

RUNNING IN THE RAIN can be an exhilarating experience, but it can be dangerous as well. Rain makes roads pay and visibility.

The rainy season has also runners from their runs, and this holiday season. Nike introduces products to keep runners dry, protected and comfortable.

Breathability, ventilation and comfort come together in the Nike Relay Rain Jacket and Pant. The Nike Dri-Fit Rain Fabric enables premium sweat management, while ergonomic seaming mesh for maximum ventilation. It allows the body's natural coolness for enhanced circulation, a flattering fit and a full range of motion.

The Nike Relay tops features reflective elements as well, keeping the runner visible in the dark. A reflective headphone cord loop at the back of the neck also means runners can leave their music without distractions.

Nike Women's Tempo shorts let women push high-performance features in to stylish and comfortable running shorts, available in a wide range of solid colorations with contrasting chevron panels. The Nike Dri-Fit fabric and built-in Dri-Fit crepe liner helps keep runners dry. A zipper pocket provides secure storage for a small media player.

The Nike Shield Pack, a collection of running footwear to suit each unique running style, is updated with the Nike Shield technology. It features a highly reflective outer device that performs triple duty. It's reflective even in dim light for safety, it resists water in wet conditions but stays breathable.

The Shield Pack collection consists of the Nike Free Run+ 3 Shield, Nike Lunarelipse+ 2 Shield and Nike Pegasus+ 29 Shield.

Six-legged walkathon kicks off World Animal Day

Sassa Asensowasi, a Filipina brand of attire and active wear, aims to motivate not women to get into a fitness routine.

Sassa's Grace, marketing manager for Mee Fashions Fashion Inc., says, "Early morning runs were an exposure. Many runners bring their dogs and suddenly it hit me, we should do a walkathon and include dogs."

The beneficiary for the event was PAWS (Philippine Animal Welfare Society), who need support for their shelter and various rescue missions. The Six-legged Walkathon kicked off the event for the World Animal Day celebration at the Mall of Asia Arena Mall.

The walkathon distance was a measurable 1.8 km around the mall of Asia Mall starting, making it an easy but not too easy finish for both human and dog.

The pet-walk program began with a warm-up portion from three-time Philippine Women's Body Building champion and the first British and Russian celebrities in the Philippines, Aurea Price. Then DJ Tina Bynes of Magic 89.9 got the crowd into high gear and special guest and Sassa model Dolana Richmond was one of the judges for the Special Awards given in three lucky human + dog teams.

The three teams were: Best Pet + Human Team Finisher Award, The Sassa Activewear Fitness Buff Award and Star of the Walkathon Award. Each winning team took home P5,000 in cash.

Sassa Activewear turned over their endorsement to PAWS director Anna Cabreza to top the walk's program.

ACTRESS Karylle and her dog

CHEWY Candy flavors—Rich Chocolate and Creamy Caramel

Candy flavored calcium supplements for good bone health

Calcibon is a breakthrough supplement that gives women their daily dose of calcium in two soft and chewy candy flavors—Rich Chocolate and Creamy Caramel. The supplement is also fortified with equally essential vitamins D and K for optimum bone health.

Heart problems may arise as women's hit middle age, so they should take a calcium supplement that contains vitamin K to help protect the arteries from calcium buildup. Calcibon, made from an 500 mg of calcium and 400 IU of vitamin D3, also contains 40mcg of vitamin K.

A key ingredient in Calcibon, vitamin K is claimed by some studies to keep calcium in the bones where it should be, while reducing the risk of calcium deposits in the arteries and soft tissues—thus elevated risk serious consequences such as stroke and heart attack.

NIKE Shield wear designed to withstand the rain

He's a doctor to tennis superstars

From page C1

Dr. John, obviously fond of the description. "A lot of people don't like him because they think his behavior's childish. But I like him."

Incredibly, they see me as "different" and "special," Dr. John, who is unmarried, said. Indeed, International Medical Hospital and now tennis and players who request for him, says "over the years, you get to know these brothers. Most of them will open up about personal stuff, like the stress they go through. They learn to trust you, so when they lose a game, or want to joke around, they come and talk to you. They feel relaxed around you and they can't do this with just anybody."

IT WAS Roger Federer (left) who got Dr. John's attention recently.

DR. JOHN celebrates with Wales' national rugby team in the 2009 World Cup.

Roger Federer

Understandable the doctor has a soft spot for Roger Federer, after all, it was the number one tennis player in the world who got the surgeon hooked on the sport.

Over the years ago, Dr. John says Federer called him out of his chair and into the court, gave him a racquet, and started hitting balls his way. Dr. John, whose only previous racquet sport was badminton, dutifully hit back.

The next day Federer got Dr. John back on the court, once then, the surgeon has been playing the sport consistently, almost daily the first six months.

Though frequent playing led to a minor shoulder issue that prevents him from serving at the moment, Dr. John insists it was a "no-brainer" with Rachel that really won him over. "I'm a numbers...or as Jesse that's value it into like, "Rafa's now not playing with Roger so he thought I'd have been to play," recounts the doctor with a grin. "The first time he served to me, it was so hard and fast I couldn't even see the ball."

The second time Rachel served, Dr. John hit back and could've swore he dislocated his shoulder in the process. "I never saw Nadal play recently," he says in awe of the Spaniard who is in the midst of recovery from nagging knee injuries. "He's very intense player."

Clearly, it's the intensity of the game coupled with the friends he's made along the way that explain why Dr. John focuses some—not say other sport.

He says been to an athletic front, he—for God was with India's junior national basketball team, an under sent a volleyball player, and a couple's stint as the captain of India's hockey team. Dr. John is a cancer, volleyball player, badminton players and only level cricket players.

He says tennis is the only sport that makes him "want to take it as much as a sport mean."

Serious athlete

Born to a generation of Bahamian who converted to Christianity (hence his Western name and prominent circumcision incident), Dr. John, whose father was a doctor, was always destined to follow in his footsteps.

Though he spent playing ball to a minor shoulder issue that prevents him from serving at the moment, Dr. John insists it was a "no-brainer" with Rachel that really won him over. "I'm a numbers...or as Jesse that's value it into like, "Rafa's now not playing with Roger so he thought I'd have been to play," recounts the doctor with a grin. "The first time he served to me, it was so hard and fast I couldn't even see the ball."

The second time Rachel served, Dr. John hit back and could've swore he dislocated his shoulder in the process. "I never saw Nadal play recently," he says in awe of the Spaniard who is in the middle of recovery from nagging knee injuries. "He's very intense player."

Clearly, it's the intensity of the game coupled with the friends he's made along the way that explain why Dr. John focuses some—not say other sport.

He says been to an athletic front, he—for God was with India's junior national basketball team, an under sent a volleyball player, and a couple's stint as the captain of India's hockey team. Dr. John is a cancer, volleyball player, badminton players and only level cricket players.

He says tennis is the only sport that makes him "want to take it as much as a sport mean."

Serious athlete

Born to a generation of Bahamian who converted to Christianity (hence his Western name and prominent circumcision incident), Dr. John, whose father was a doctor, was always destined to follow in his footsteps.

The second child of Rachel Sweeting, Dr. John, his first, and could've sworn he dislocated his shoulder in the process. "I never saw Nadal play recently," he says in awe of the Spaniard who is in the middle of recovery from nagging knee injuries. "He's very intense player."

Clearly, it's the intensity of the game,

Staying slim and keeping healthy the natural way

Jeeves

PRESENTS

JACOPO TORRICELLI

SEITZ GMBH

COUTURE CLEANING SEMINAR FOR THE FASHION TRADE

4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

20 OCTOBER 2012, NEW WORLD HOTEL MAKATI

Free of charge to boutique owners and staff who specialize in ultra and fashionable clothing. Limited seats only. Pre-registration required. Please call Jeeves of Belgravia Manila, London's Finest Dry Cleaners at telephone nos. 654-1212 or 684-3112 or 595-0917/7681111.

JEEVES

Shop Number 3, New World Hotel Arcade Makati 1200

HOW CAN ONE look and feel younger than one's actual chronological age? Are there remedies or therapies that can strengthen one's immune system against disease? Is there a smarter way to live one's life in order to counteract the passage and the ravages of time? The answer is yes to all these questions.

There is a reference to weight management through the consumption of saba bean hotchili peppers in a book. Apparently, certain Shaolin monk time by this hot pepper.

He says generous meals or treats a day, doesn't have an ounce of fat in her body and looks younger than his actual age. What he does as a habit is to add hot sauce to every meal. It is so spicy that beads of perspiration run down his face every mealtime. What happens is that heat from the chili peppers actually increases the fire or temperature of the body. This activates the metabolism to work double-time.

Weight-loss tips

• The hotter the better

If you can manage...add hot sauce to meals beginning with breakfast. Should plain chili sauce be too hard to swallow, make it taste with chopped tomatoes, onions and crushed chili. The plus side to spicy meals is that more heat stimulates digestion. And this helps food move more quickly and efficiently through the colon. So, those suffering from constipation should heed the advice.

• Ginger and spice

Another spice that can assist you in weight loss is ginger. You have the option to grate it fresh and mix with your soup, or juice it as part of your salad dressing. You may consider sweetening some fresh ginger slices and adding that to dessert. It's perfect as a topping for vanilla ice cream, too. Add ginger juice to your favorite hot cocoa drink. If not salty adds a zing but it also helps you burn calories faster.

• Rare vinegar

The more natural the better. Raw organic apple cider vinegar or homemade old-fashioned Cuban farmer preserved vinegar made before each meal will increase the fat-burning process. Another is your body. Importantly, it also burns stored fat. Recipe: one tablespoon of vinegar in a mug of warm water.

• VCO

This bears repeating. Raw organic virgin coconut oil is a slimming oil. If you consume one tablespoon of VCO before meals, it will allow food to pass through your digestive tract quicker. This actually stops the conversion of food to fat. VCO also stimulates the thyroid, so if you have a sluggish thyroid or hypothyroid, this remedy ought to help you along. The best part is that you burn fat while you sleep.

• Tea

Green tea is known to benefit the immune system and stimulate the metabolism because of its high caffeine content. Another tea called Stella Main will reduce the appetite and increase the fat-burning furnace within the body up to six every two hours.

These simple regimens work. And if you are consistent and persistent, then results can be seen in 30 days.

Find the cause

People tend to ask about natural cures to removing symptoms like acid reflux or heartburn, constipation, rashes, allergies and migraines. Instead of asking to cure the symptoms, why not consider finding the cause.

The word nowadays is in be prescribed that special pill that will numb your pain, or the cream that will erase your unsightly rash. But have you stopped to think for a minute why these things occur and even in your life?

The question to ask yourself (especially if your doctor is just adding it) is this: What is causing my health challenges?

You can start taking out many things like a misaligned spine, poor diet, lack of stress management, vitamin and mineral deficiency, toxic buildup, lack of emotional and spiritual encouragement, antibiotic or drug misuse and abuse, and the list goes on.

If you want to get well, stop treating the symptoms. Find the cause.

Possible deficiency

Are we really eating enough of the right vitamins and minerals from the food we eat?

Questions have been raised also about synthetically manufactured vitamin pills and supplements which may cause kidney and liver one day. Some health experts believe that you need to give your kidneys a rest in between supplementation. So that as it may, it never hurts to derive the best intention from the Creator organically produced food sources. This assures that it is more than enough for our body. However, a gaping rule has not been health seekers. You can eat practically any food group...carbohydrates, dairy, protein, fruits and vegetables for as long as its organic.

And if organic food is beyond your budget or is scarce, then [illegible] cost of the food in that reference.

Food Cleanse

½ tsp rock salt

2 tbsp baking soda

8 c water

1 tsp raw vinegar

Water for 20 minutes. Wash off and prepare your meal.

Today's affirmation: "I am cleansed and purified body and soul."

Love and light!

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Rima Ostwani—how she keeps her healthy-white glow

AS A COMMERCIAL MODEL, fashion consultant, TV host and actress, she very beautiful Rima Ostwani wears many hats to what most people consider a glamour industry.

Naturally, it's important for her to always look her best.

"I meet and interact with a lot of people every day and for me your look and vanity powers gives a person an instant impression of you. As the saying goes, first impressions last. Part of that is to always try to be beautiful because it will definitely make you feel good about yourself," says the 26-year old Sri Lk Exile Universite alumna who is now the new image endorser of Olaya whitening products.

Born to a Syrian dad and a Spanish-German mom, Ostwani is blessed with a slender physique and enviable Middle Eastern features. Her daily regimen includes getting enough sleep, eating a balanced diet, drinking lots of water, taking vitamin supplements, exercising regularly and always maintaining a positive outlook in life.

"I also use cleansing gel, toner and Olaya cream for my face and dark spots, Olaya soap and Olaya lotion for my body," she reveals.

"It's because Olaya is very effective in keeping my skin fair, glowing, healthy and radiant. It lightens my complexion as well and makes me confident to wear short dresses, sleeveless and backless tops."

RIMA Ostwani and Aga Erdeng Solution Philippines Corp. founder and CEO Alice Enco-Soriano

Alice J. Enco-Soriano, founder and CEO of Age Defying Solutions Philippines Corp., manufacturer of Olaya, says their product is not just for those with darker skin.

"For those who have fair complexion like Rima, the challenge is how to maintain evenly fair skin all over. Olaya helps maintain her white glow and aids in removing freckles, sunspots or melasma like her. For those who love their melanin-complexion like our other endorser, Iya Rivadia, Olaya does wonders in making their skin look even."

Like Ostwani, Mom-Son-ista knows how to take care of herself and follows an exposure detailed regimen that incorporates her recommended use of Olaya.

"I wash my face in the morning with Olaya soap to unclog pores, remove impurities, kill germs and wash away excess oil that we don't produce during the night. I follow it up with a toner to shrink pores and tighten the skin, then I use Olaya Powerful Whitening Cream with SPF 15 before putting on make-up.

"At night, I use an oil-based eye makeup remover, then wash my face with Olaya soap to remove makeup, dirt and oils that have accumulated on my face during the day from being exposed to the environment. I follow it up with a toner then, lastly, I put Olaya Powerful Whitening Cream on my face, neck and chest again to make my skin fair, smooth and young-looking all over!"

"Olaya is the only skin-whitening product in the world that combines the power of the two most potent and effective anti-aging and whitening agents: glutathione and papaya. The formulation is protected by a patent," she adds.

Olaya is available in Watsons, Mercury Drug, Southstar drugstore, Ilocos drug store, Rustan's, Shopwise, Landmark, 7-Eleven, Puregold, All Department Store, South Supermarket, Tropical supermarket, Honor Supermarket and Cherry Foodarama.

ENTERTAINMENT

Julie Rianne G. Velarde

Mobile Alert: Text REGISTER to 2467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Tipsthe.com Facebook: Inquirer.net Entertainment Twitter: @inq7

Britney on Whitney

LOS ANGELES—Britney Spears said of Whitney Houston starring a Grammy tribute to the late singer, which will air as a TV special next month: "I think she's amazing. And I think that her voice is better than God. I said, I love her."

HEARD

Prancing, dancing till he (almost) drops

'Yet again I'm hustling...' Foster the People frontman drives crowd crazy

By Pedrolo Concepcion

DJ DAVID Guetta: Yet another king of the dance universe

FOSTER the People was not even a figment of our imagination before we saw its crowd concert at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Since we're just fans—blown away by a level of energy passion and talent that is hard to top.

Fronted by singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Mark Foster, the band won the portrait of a group surely interested in the magic of music. Opening with bursts of the percussive-electric rhythms of its song, "Miss You," FTP instantaneously drove the crowd crazy as Foster wiggled all over the stage, even flowing with choreography.

CONCERT REVIEW

With a Bob Dylan shawl and a slight falsetto, Foster sang melancholy but bounced to a happy beat. Dancing like a kid let loose in his first teenage party, he danced to the left and the right, and seemed his franchisee, could be tempted into his keyboards and almost fell off-stage.

"Yet again I'm hustling, hustling, hustling," he warbled on "Life on the Nickel"—a song which seemed to have been written after a dimension with a decadent lifestyle. But watching FTP's other members relaxedly grooving on the drums, percussion and keyboards, we felt the tune was a celebration of all things beautiful.

The band was easy to behold. Drummer Mark Pontius hammering away with two session players multitasking from keyboards to percussion; guitarist Cubbie Fink crooning out riffs but not showing off like a rock star; and Foster himself shifting from keyboards to guitar to percussion to instantly to changing clothes.

The beat, yes, the beat, was all that mattered—primal, African-derived rhythms whose intensity escalated on "Broken Jaw." It was a dance tune that the ladies could revel in, but the energy and melody coordinated with the intensity of punk.

There were touches of Steppenwolf's "Born To Be Wild" title when Foster swapped on a guitar to play on "Don't Stop," but overall the mix is not so choppy as a delicious dose of windy shoegaze—only several lessons or days to the 1970s, but without the air of pretense and predictable showmanship from the performers.

DJ David Guetta rocks

At first, the idea seemed outlandish: a performance at the SM Mall of Asia Arena featuring French DJ David Guetta (rated No. 1 by DJ Mag's list poll) plus two other club jocks as guests.

But it happened on Oct. 10, with some 8,000 people grooving in one big party, shouting out their approval as the DJs rocked the house with wave-shaking sonics.

The synthesizer-induced beats and mixups created a gigantic wall of sound that seemed to swirl into one's head.

Instead of causing pain, however, it flowed like a shot of an ice-strong coffee or excitedly burned here, exhilarating through the brain, delivering a pleasurable punch.

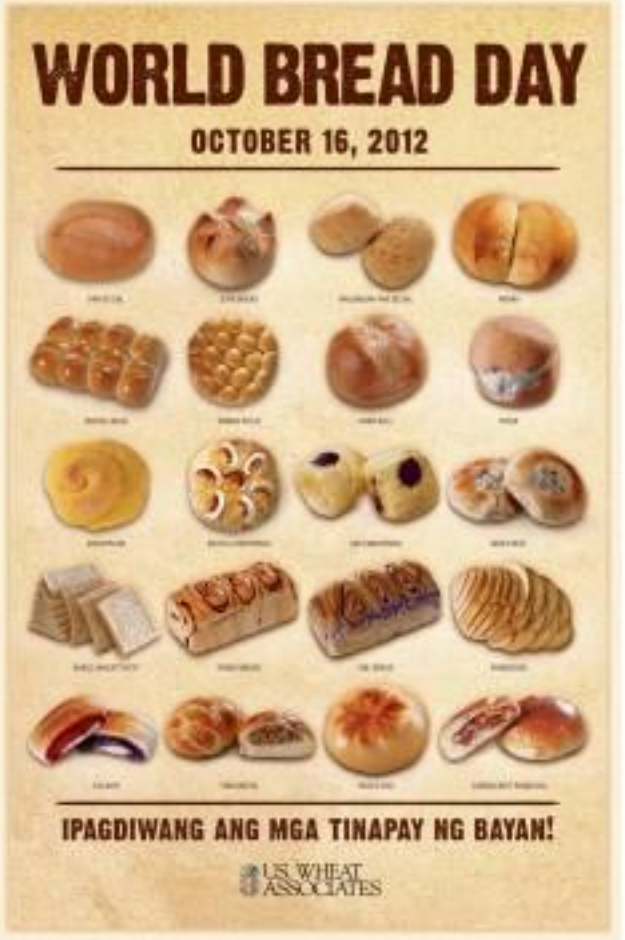
DJs Kat James (from Australia) and Alesso (Sweden) warmed up the crowd with their respective spins, which effected with a particular aim—to Kat James' set, a delightful segue into Guetta's "Whatdowedo."

Guetta's entrance was preceded by video graphics that looked like a forfeiture of UFOs.

He went on to play "Titanium" from his 2011 album "Nothing But The Beat," sending the audience into a screaming frenzy.

Another track flashed in fast-forward take on the video remix "Sexy Bitch" featuring Akon on vocals from Guetta's 2009 album "One Love."

When the next track, "The World Is Mine" (from the 2010 album "Gaetta Effector"), came on, Guetta looked like the king of the dance universe—his every move a command for the adoring throng to supervise to the music.



ROBINSONS
MOVIEWORLD

GALLERIA
MANILA
METRO EAST
MAGANDA
FORUM ROBINSONS
PALAWAN
PANGASINAN

STA. ROSA
LIPA
CASAMAYMAYS
STARMILLS
BALIS
TACLOBAN
ILOCOS NORTE
ANGELES
DUMAGUETE
CEBU SM
BACOLOD
ILOILO

New Stones single 'rather good'

LONDON—The Rolling Stones released its new single "Doom and Gloom" on Thursday, the band first new song in over six years, getting mixed reviews.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary the year, the British rock group behind "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" and "Honky Tonk Women" have gone back to its roots in a fast-tempo, blues track described variously as "gritty" "dirty" and "swampy."

"Doom and Gloom" is one of two new songs on the upcoming greatest hits album "GRRR!", which hits shelves on Nov. 12, and there was a sense of relief among critics that the track sounded like the Stones of old.

"Revived music industry wisdom has it that new Rolling Stones material stands purely to fling compilation albums or tour tickets," wrote Mikey Ishkod's Elda Stiles. "It's with some relief that we report it's actually rather good," he added in a three-star review.

Neil McCormick of the Daily Telegraph also gave the single three stars, saying it was "business as usual" for the band and drawing comparisons between the song and the "homecoming rock" of its acclaimed 2012 album "Some Girls."

Both critics argued that the song's weakest point was lead singer Mick Jagger's vocals. "The best bit is when he stops singing and starts blowing," said McCormick of the harmonica interlude.

Riders praised the "atonime-stained chords" of Ronnie Wood and Keith Richards on guitars and Charlie Watts' "customary magic" on the drums, but added: "If there's a weak link here then it's actually Jagger, who looks and sounds over the track like one of his own tribute actors. He unleashed emotionless (c)-(c)-(c)-(c)-ombo."

Music magazine NME called "Doom and Gloom" a "Guinness blacker" for Generation Xth. "The new Stones song is a revitalising reminder of what made them great... a tune that still so wonderfully assuages their classic," it concluded, in a challenge to Paul McCartney, "Are you listening, Macca?"

"Doom and Gloom" and "GRRR!" are part of a series of events to celebrate half a century of the Stones, one of the world's most successful and influential rock 'n' roll bands who started out in July 1962 at the Marquee Club in London. —Reuters

DID YOU KNOW...

CHEER FACTOR

Bieber's celebrity lineage

SALT LAKE CITY... Call it the Canadian dynasty of sweep, hopper joy and movie sensation.

Technically, it doesn't count. Justin Bieber is a distant cousin of movie star Ryan Dreifing and singer Avril Lavigne. Their family lines trace back to Quebec's earliest settlers 400 years ago, the Utah company said Thursday.

Bieber's great-aunt and her's a distant relative of singer Celine Dion.

Michelle Tessier-Lavigne, a researcher with Ancestry.com said they began tracing Bieber's lineage a year ago by paging through town magazines.

What they say they found was that Bieber and Dreifing are 11th cousins once removed, and Bieber and Lavigne are 12th cousins. They also said Bieber and Dion are 13th cousins three times removed because they're linked to a French couple born in the 1600s.

Ancestry.com said the didn't know if these celebrity ties are "sufficient to point to the existence of a super power."

JUSTIN Bieber

Wolfgang debuts at No. 1

TOP SELLING al... tums in the country for the week from Oct. 3-7, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports:

OPM

1) Wolfgang, "Ang Bagong Dugo: Sa Loheng Gabi"; Genevieve Sison, 2) Various Artists, "Be Careful With My Heart," MOR; 3) Parokya Ni Edgar, "Demonyo Incidents, Vol. 2," Universal; 4) Gloc-9, "Ang Kuwento Ng Kahon," Universal; 5) Sarah Geronimo, "OPM Classics," Viva; 6) Various Artists, "Walang Panggap (Repackaged)," Star; 7) Various Artists, "Manila Pilipino Christmas Medley: Kung Ba't," Sony; 8) Jake Zyrus, "Sulat Kong Sa Iyo," Star; 9) Various Artists, "Pasko Sa Puso," EMA; 10) Noel Cabangon, "Kung Ang Bukas," Universal

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO

SM CINEMA
www.smcinema.com
CUSTOMER CARE HOTLINE (02) 470 .22 .22
IMAX

METRO MANILA
LUZON
VISAYAS & MINDANAO

LEGEND: SM DIGITAL THEATRE ON SELECT WITH EMULATION SEATS
MORE SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
FOR AN UPDATED SHOWTIMES VISIT www.smcinema.com

SM TICKETS HOTLINE: 470.22.22 / WEBSITE: www.smtickets.com

A CINEXCLUSIVE FROM SM CINEMA
Enjoy 50% discount
on the latest game when you use your e-PLUS load.
Just present your e-PLUS card at the ticket booth to avail of this exclusive offer.
e-PLUS
OPENS OCTOBER 10

Echo says he's happier singing than acting

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

ECHO Rendon has been trying to make a mark in the local music industry for six years and when letting talented co-artists Gian and Erik try acting, the members told news feeds that people are starting to acknowledge him as a legitimate singer-songwriter.

"I used to get booed and pelted with water bottles during rock gigs. Some people would flash me the dirty finger. But I feel more accepted now... I made it through, thanks to patience and prayers," he said at the launch of his latest solo album "Eternal" (Star Records).

The 31-year-old's first foray into the music scene was back in 2006, when his band Astig released a rock 'n' roll record, "Goose Fat." Soon after, Echo decided to go solo and released two other albums, "Invicta" and "Change."

Doubtful critics

His initial efforts were generally met with skepticism from critics who doubted the capabilities of a musician. Luckily, Echo got a much-needed morale boost after his single "Parang Ligaw" was declared song of the year at the Philippine Movie Press Club's Star Awards in 2010.

The song was also used as a theme song for the 2011 film, "In the Name of Love."

"I almost cried. Because it was the first time I got paid as a songwriter. I was like, 'Thank you, Lord!' I'm also thankful that people trusted me to write songs for TV shows such as 'Until in Paradise' and 'Green Rose,'" he said.

Despite his recent successes, Echo said there are still people who don't take him seriously, but he no longer minds, having learned to take harsh criticism in stride. "I take no shortcuts. I'm open to everything. What's important is I enjoy what I'm doing and I'm true to my music," he said. "I'm happy that some of my biggest supporters back then have copies of my albums now and listen to my music."

It came as a surprise when Echo said he was happier as a singer than an actor.

He said: "I feel the opportunity when I'm singing. I love seeing people's reactions. There's also the adrenaline rush."

No concert yet

Asked if he's ready to hold concerts, Echo was realistic, saying that he needed more time to build his reputation further as a musician by creating new songs.

"I'm not confident that I can sell tickets—at the moment," he said. "I have a lot of things to do. The management wants me to continue with lessons for my voice to become sharper, by singing ballads. I need time to prepare. I'd like to give people what they deserve."

Given the chance, however, Echo said he could probably start with a small, intimate show. "I don't want to jump in. I also want to incorporate acting into our stage performances... I would love to tear up with new corpus," he said.

Eternal song

Echo said there was a time when he was forced to follow the trend of doing revivals but now, choosing one original material is one of the responsible men's biggest priorities. His goal is high: to come up with an "eternal song."

He explained: "I want something that will last, something that will have big impact on listeners. There are lots of new artists and songs, but people still listen to the songs of Jaya, Imago, Rivermaya, Gary Valenciano and Francis Magalona very and over again." He remarked that he is most inspired to write when it's raining.

"Kuwan," a somersault album, features seven original songs and two covers. The tracks include "Kuwan Na," "Malaya," "Pahinlungan Ng Ulan," "Sumbrero Ng Araw Ko," "Kumusta Ka Mang Mehalf" and "Mukha Kang Hilo."

POWER PLANT CINEMA

THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER 1:15 – 4:15 – 7:15 – 10:15 PM	THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE? – PG 1:30, 3:30, 5:30	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (IN 3D) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE? – PG 2:30, 4:30, 6:45, 8:45	SINISTER (IN 3D) – R-13 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:45, 9:30	TAKEN 2 (IN 3D) – PG 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

SHANG CINEPLEX

1) TAKEN 2 3D 2:00, 5:00, 7:30

2) THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH YOU MARE 1:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:30

3) SINISTER 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45

4) HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3D 2:15, 5:00, 7:30

THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH YOU MARE 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:00

Concept Art by University of the Philippines Interior Design Exhibit 2012
October 16-24, 2012
Level 2
Shang Fun Place

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: TED (3D)
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: TAKEN 2 (3D)
4: SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
5: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
7: SINISTER

GREENBELT 3
1: TAKEN 2
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

GREENBELT 5
1: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
2: TAKEN 2
3: SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
4: GAME OF TOMORROW
5: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
3: TAKEN 2
4: SINISTER
5: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: TED/THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2: TAKEN 2
3: SINISTER
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

MARQUEE
1: TAKEN 2
2: TED (3D)/THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
4: SINISTER

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH YOU MARE
2: SINISTER
3: TED
4: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
5: TAKEN 2
6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
7: RESERVES

TRINOMA
1: 12TH DAY
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER (3D)
4: SINISTER (3D)
5: SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
6: TAKEN 2
7: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

ABREEZA
1: SINISTER (3D)
2: TED (3D)/THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
4: TAKEN 2

HARBOR POINT
1: TED/THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: TAKEN 2
4: SINISTER

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2910
(for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
For verification, please call 729-7777.

MOVIE SPECIAL

Tekik
THE ANIMAL LIBERATOR
October 17 (Wed.)
3:00 PM - Glorietta 4 Cinema
7:00 PM - TriNoma Cinema

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Christian Tattoos

GREENBELT
Autism Awareness Event
October 19, 11 AM Activities in Function Room

MARKET! MARKET!
Authenticity Center Appliance Fair
October 12-21 Activities in Function Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
2nd Floor, Activity Center
October 19 Body Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Activity Park Center and the public center for the Metro Area
October 19 Activities in Body Center

ESCRIBANO-TIMES STREET
Mezzanine Child Training Hall
October 19 Activities in Body Center

TRINOMA
Some The Premiere and the Regular Screening
October 21 Level Cinema 1

MARQUEE
Activity Park Center
October 17 Activities in Body Center

ABREEZA
Children's Month Celebration
October 19 Activity Center

HARBOR POINT
Activity Park Center and the public center for the Metro Area
October 19 Activities in Body Center

MALL SPECIAL

TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO THE VIP LIFE
Be a #Thing Privilege Card Member Now!
For membership application, please visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph

glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Harbor Point · Trinoma · MARQUEE · Abreeza · Ayala Malls Manila Bay

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS TO 2948

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A LIFTER — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY ROY LUMBA

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

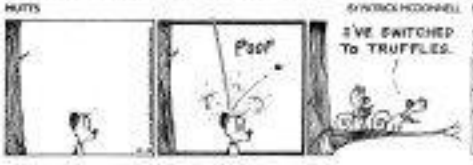
LOVE MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HONGALD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RUBE MACHINE — BY FRANK ABRERA

SEIN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

WELL, IT'S CALLED A SUPERSONIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. IT'S A TUBE WITH A VACUUM AND A CAR.
EVERYONE WANT TO GET IN?
SURE! ME FIRST!
I'M NOT SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA.
AT LEAST I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING.

No movie plugging, no sibling rivalry

IT'S STRANGE that whenever the trailer of Derek Ramsay's movie with Anne Curtis and Andi Eigenmann, "A Secret Affair," is aired on his host Santo network, ABS-CBN, his pants are edited out. And his name is not mentioned when they plug the film.

How does Derek feel about that? "I'm really okay with it. I respect their decision," he says. "I will just focus on finishing the film and doing my TVC work to the best of my ability."

Spoken like a true gentleman. But while that is the prerogative of the Kapamilya network, it's sad that in the commercial TV world, "friendly (Kapamilya)" is not forever after all. We are family ... until further notice.

No sibling rivalry

Aljur Abrenica is very supportive of younger brother Rio's foray into the biz. "When I heard that he was going to audition for Artista Academy, I told him I could help him enter the biz faster by recommending him to my contacts," Aljur says. "He told me that he wanted to start from scratch and experience what I did when I joined Starstruck.' That makes me really proud. When he finally makes it big, it would be more fulfilling."

Ubi got teary-eyed when a poem written by Aljur for him was read on "It's Showtime." "He writes poems only for girls," says Vin. "This is the first one for me. I am so touched."

Here are some lines from Aljur's "Mahal Kong Ubi":

"Hirang mag-mahal ako sa isang pambihirang tao dahil sa dami ng dahilan na ayoong dinetalye' Ako'y naiinis at laging ayoong pagkukulang' Ako'y naiinis at laging ayoong' Ikaw kapatid' mahal mga ang ang

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION SINCE 1956

AGORA Awards Night 2012

AGORA AWARDS

FOR THIRTY three years, the PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION (PMA) has brought the attention of the business community the admirable qualities of diligence, versatility and innovativeness exemplified by deserving Philippine companies. By organizing the yearly Agora awards, the PMA pays tribute to Filipino companies and marketing professionals who exhibit a proven flair for captivating the finicky and hard-to-please Filipino consumer.

In 2011, the Agora literally embodies metamorphosis into shining gold stars that are the dominant images of the Philippine flag. These stars represent Filipino creativity, professionalism and resilience. Their gold color symbolizes excellence and timeless new.

THE PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, THE AGORA AWARDS, AND THE MARKETING PROFESSION

The Agora Awards is the embodiment of marketing excellence. The distinguished awardees for the year were selected for having steered their companies to success. The Philippine Marketing Association is proudly honored to bestow the coveted Agora Awards on these deserving role models.

The PMA and the Birth of Professional Marketing in the Philippines

The years before the inception of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) might well be referred as as the "dark ages" of marketing as a profession in this country. When people thought of marketing, they thought of selling or distribution processes. Marketing practitioners then were unable to step forward and proudly promote themselves as professionals in a field serving Filipino consumers.

But that all changed in 1956 when 18 brave pioneers pooled their efforts and private funds to create the PMA. The mission and vision of this new non-stock, non-profit organization was so passionate that serving as a noble permanent and to promote high-level guidelines to the private sector in marketing.

From the beginning, the PMA was committed to the belief that economic and social progress is not merely limited to the free enterprise system. These beliefs are embodied in the PMA credo: "the country's economic progress can be best achieved in a climate of free enterprise" and "business and industry can be best contributor to economic progress" and social well-being through enlightened self-interest.

The PMA also believes that marketing should be recognized and appreciated as both an art and science and encourages its members to conduct their business in a way that will improve the quality of life of their stakeholders, their employees and their consumers.

The Agora Award: The Genesis

During the late 1970s, as it approached its fifties Anniversary, the PMA began searching for a flagship project, something that would differentiate the Association, hone enhancing marketing practitioners, and further professionalize the field of marketing. During the fateful year of 1977, three key members of the Long Range Planning Committee began to meet regularly to brainstorm and evaluate alternatives: the late Ernesto G. Rovero (1976-1977 PMA President) Antonio L. Tajanlangit (1974 PMA President), and Guillermo T. Garcia (1974-1975). These would retire his inherited fortunes and open discussions was the old Lobby Hotel Restaurant on United Nations Avenue. One evening Garcia proposed the idea of creating an award that would transform the image of the marketing profession, from this idea sprung forth the AGORA AWARDS.

Careful research and planning was done for several years until 1979 when the PMA, under its then President Ignacio Bengzon formally launched the AGORA AWARDS, an important precursor of the free enterprise system.

Jaime Sooster permission of Agora: The Philippine Journal of Marketing) relied on to be the catalyst, and it was during the Association's Silver Anniversary year that the first Agora Awards ever were held. The 1979 awards committee, co-chaired by Willie Garcia and Clarita Dolatre, acted on the then key concepts of Marketing Management, Marketing Education and Management research and developed the procedural framework that has served as the model ever since.

The Traditional and Future Promise

Since 1979, the Agora Awards were envisioned to distinguished individuals and companies who made significant contributions to the marketing profession and whose products and services have improved the Filipino's way of life. Later, the categories of Export Marketing (1986) and Marketing Company of the Year were added. In 1989, the Entrepreneurship category was augmented into Large Scale, Medium Scale and Small Scale.

More recently (1997), the Asia Pacific Agora Awards for Marketing Excellence have given the Awards an international dimension. In 2000, the Advocacy Marketing category was added. The latest development was a logical outgrowth of PMA becoming a founding member of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation in 1992, along with 21 National Marketing Associations from the region. Significantly, it was during the Centennial Celebration of the Philippine nation that the PMA "exported" the Agora Awards to members of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation, who have enthusiastically adopted this Filipino originated symbol of marketing excellence.

PMA proudly embraces this year's Agora Awardees as the illustrious company of previous winners, representing a "Who's Who" of the Marketing profession in this country. Each year, the torch is passed, the theme of excellence dictating the way, always highlighting and rewarding Filipino ingenuity and innovation in the field of marketing. The PMA, looks forward to continuing the Agora Awards as a platform for serving the marketing profession and the Filipino people.

THE AGORA CATEGORIES & ITS AWARDEES

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN MARKETING EDUCATION

- Faculty member teaching marketing in a formal educational institution duly accredited or recognized by the Philippine government
- Outstanding achievement in marketing education as evidenced by relevant research work, published work in widely circulated

AGORA 11

Congratulations!

Mr. Rene de la Calzada

President, TriDharma Marketing Corporation

for winning the
2012 Agora Award For Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management

AGORA AWARDS

Through Mr. dela Calzada's marketing brilliance, TriDharma Marketing Corporation has distributed Kopiko coffee and candies, Energen nutritious milk cereals, Fun candies and Bang Bang chocolate wafer throughout the country. Through his leadership, TriDharma was able to establish Kopiko Brown Coffee as the no. 1 brand in the brown coffee category and successfully launch Kopiccino, a 3-in-one cappuccino flavored instant coffee mix.

A beacon of Filipino marketing excellence that spotlight admirable qualities of versatility, innovativeness and ingenuity, the Agora Award is given by the Philippine Marketing Association to world-class Filipino businesses and marketing practitioners in recognition of their commitment and dedication to pursue marketing excellence through their superior, out-of-the-box thinking and trailblazing achievements.

TriDharma

SURF LONGER with

sun broadband

PLAN 250

San Broadband Plan 250 is the most affordable broadband plan with more Internet hours than other networks' more expensive plans.

₱250

35 HOURS/month

Pay less for more hours. Now, that's value.

CONSISTENT
FAST
RELIABLE

Visit The Sun Shop now!

messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE

My warmest greetings to the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) as you host the 33rd Agora Awards!

The PMA continues to build its vast network as an instrument of people empowerment and economic growth. It serves as a venue for members to exchange best practices and reach new markets, making the Philippines competitive in the global economy. This upholds the administration's thrust to create more jobs, better our lives, contribute to equitable and sustainable development, and help uplift the quality of life for the poor of our countrymen.

The nine (9) sterling marketing success stories by the honorees and finalists are genuine and awesome spread out here in the great wisdom of Filipino entrepreneurs are talking to push their companies forward and gave us a deeper appreciation of their experiences (flaws) as students and as citizens.

On behalf of the Board of Judges of the 2012 Agora Awards, I congratulate this year's members and the dynamic efforts and initiatives of the Philippine Marketing Association (the) set before the prestigious recognition award.

The importance of picking as a judge to this year's award for the most brilliant, creative, and innovative marketing programs was, to use a cliché, overdue. The great benefits of marketing and communication have raised the whole quality of business that some call the art of them. Answering questions like the ones below, to our determined effort to know the latest's current and not the stale brand.

The nine (9) of these outstanding success stories by the honorees and finalists are genuine and awesome spread out here in the great wisdom of Filipino entrepreneurs are talking to push their companies forward and gave us a deeper appreciation of their experiences (flaws) as students and as citizens.

His warmest congratulations to the honorees of the 33rd Philippine Marketing Association Agora Awards.

The Agora Awards symbolizes excellence in the field of marketing and it focuses on the Filipino taste and sensitivities more as an inspiration to the marketing industry to continue to develop and create products and services with special and entrepreneurial skills.

The criteria for the various categories of the Agora Awards are challenging and very ordinary marketers more than just matched without truly meeting these standards. But I offer this challenge not only to the honorees to continue their admirable qualities and skills but to the entire Philippine Marketing Association community to create innovative and effective growth of marketing activities that will help to realize building.

For the past 33 years, the Agora Awards of the Philippine Marketing Association has been giving recognition to the best Filipino marketing practitioners. It is undoubtedly the only award giving body that commands the ingenuity & dynamic marketing companies, professionals and educators. Because of its credibility and prestige, winning an Agora has become a solid testament to one's capacity and creativity.

The annual task undertaking nominations, screening the documentations, endless deliberation up to the finals/interviews and the final judging is conducted by the 2012 Agora Awards. The time and dedication rendered by every member of the team is commendable.

The Board of Judges, who are also past Agora awardees did an excellent job of ensuring the standard of the Agora is maintained. The Board has also brought a new vision to the nominees in imposing a strict compliance to the practice of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. With this added dimension to the awards, the

For the umpteenth year, the Agora Awards of the Philippine Marketing Association has been giving recognition to the best Filipino marketing practitioners. It is undoubtedly the only award giving body that commands the ingenuity & dynamic marketing companies, professionals and educators. Because of its credibility and prestige, winning an Agora has become a solid testament to one's capacity and creativity.

The annual task undertaking nominations, screening the documentations, endless deliberation up to the finals/interviews and the final judging is conducted by the 2012 Agora Awards. The time and dedication rendered by every member of the team is commendable.

The Board of Judges, who are also past Agora awardees did an excellent job of ensuring the standard of the Agora is maintained. The Board has also brought a new vision to the nominees in imposing a strict compliance to the practice of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. With this added dimension to the awards, the

For companies, schools, foundations and other worthy institutions who believe in excellence in their marketing and mission, winning another award will create a testimony through the recognition it bestowed.

As Agora becomes, to achieve more for!

Cheers, but is that a different title to consult for the winners are selected by their peers in the marketing profession. Nonetheless, in many cases, an Agora is somewhat a foundation for the winners to achieve higher. Over the years, awardees were asked against establishing other received awards to a noble purpose.

As Agora develops, it is not just spread. It is not just

performance in the challenging fields of business, marketing, and communication. May this recognition give you the trust and confidence you need to get started moving on your partners in action building.

Our economy is at its most vibrant moment spurred by our people's renewed faith in our institutions and system. Let us keep working together on the strength and vigilance paths between equitable progress. An inclusive set of decisions to our shared aspirations is our collective responsibility.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

I'm not here tonight to celebrate excellence and creativity in, and to applaud the winners for their craft! Marketing achievement is in marketing.

I'm asked the Philippine Marketing Association for answering the Agora Awards in 2012 and for setting it through 33rd after-year since. Truly, the Awards, certainly of competitive and marketing, have raised the bar of marketing excellence in our country. Making every Agora prestigious and valuable for the winners.

Again, on behalf of my fellow judges, let me thank the PMA for the privilege and honor of choosing this year's awardees and for the opportunity I had the world to enter in good standard to speak, and proud to be a Filipino.

ROBERT ROZA
Chairperson, Board of Judges
Agora Awards 2012

On behalf of the Philippine Marketing Association Board of Directors, I extend my congratulations and appreciation to the board of judges who never through a long and tedious assessment of the candidates' strategies and successful implementation of plans and programs.

I extend also my thanks to Board Chairman Agora Awards Mr. Edith Ojeda. Over all Chairman and past president Sabby Manlapaz, committee members the secretariat, spouses, friends and supporters for the hard work they have all contributed for the success of this event.

Cheers to Marketing Excellence!
Congratulations!

GWENETH ARAGON
President, PMA 2012, Awards

Agora has become an emblem of prestige to the winners that will certainly encourage them to the marketing profession to excel.

This year's winners join the exclusive list of industry titans and visionaries in the Agora Awards who made their investments and business success, will inspire and be motivated to the field of marketing not only in the Philippines but also in the world.

We salute this year's awardees! Primera Convention, Ms. Rose Ch. La Cañada, Mr. Steve Chua, Mr. Lyle Nicanor, Mr. Carolyn Ty and Concepcion Consultants.

Congratulations to all awardees and Thank You to the board of judges and members of the 2012 Agora Awards for for doing a great job.

Mga Kababayan, Magandang Araw!

Agora Awards Director

Congratulations to all the Agora

PETRON CORPORATION

PETRON Corporation is the largest oil refining and marketing company in the Philippines. Supplying nearly 40% of the country's oil requirements, their world-class products and quality services find the lives of millions of Filipinos every day.

Petron operates an integrated crude oil refinery and petrochemicals complex with a rated capacity of 180,000 barrels per day in Limay, Bataan. Our Integrated Management System (IMS)-certified refinery processes crude oil into a full range of petroleum products including gasoline, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), jet fuel, kerosene, industrial fuel oil, and petrochemical feedstock benzene, toluene, mixed xylene, and propylene.

From the refinery, their products are distributed to 33 International Organization of Standardization (ISO)-certified depots situated all over the country. Through this vast distribution network, Petron supplies fuel oil, diesel, and LPG to various industrial customers as well as jet fuel to international and domestic carriers.

With over 2,000 Petron service stations, it has the largest retail network in the country and the most extensive petroleum product line in the Philippines. Their stations give a one-stop service experience to the weary traveler offering amenities like convenience stores, restaurants, and specialty shops plus vehicle repair and maintenance services using modern equipment and manned by well-trained technicians.

Always at the forefront of fuels technology, they develop products that cater to the lifestyles of Filipino customers. Their LPG brands have been an intrinsic part of Philippine households because of their trustworthiness and reliability; moreover, their customer education programs focus on product safety and energy conservation.

A core investment is the introduction of a variety of Petron Cards that have been engineered to encourage convenience and ensure customer satisfaction in every swipe.

Petron operates a polypropylene (PP) plant with a rated capacity of 160,000 metric tons of PP resin annually, a lube oil blending plant, and one of the most modern bitumen facilities in Asia, which formulates the unique fuel additives that can produce premium fuels.

The company exports various petroleum and non-fuel products to various Asia Pacific countries such as Japan, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, and even to the United Arab Emirates.

They recently acquired three companies in Malaysia that comprise an integrated downstream oil business.

In the area of corporate and social citizenship they have maintained programs that address national concerns in education, environment, and health and human services and have successfully integrated them into their marketing campaigns.

Office Address: East Migsul Corp.,
Head Office Complex, #1 San Miguel
Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550
Robin No.: (02) 8632-1777
Toll Free No.: 1-800-100-738786 (PETRON)
Email: contactus@petron.com
Website: www.petron.com

SPONSORS

LANDBANK

goldilocks

bench/

pwc
Isla Lipana & Co.

executive decisions

The leader behind TriDharma Marketing Corporation

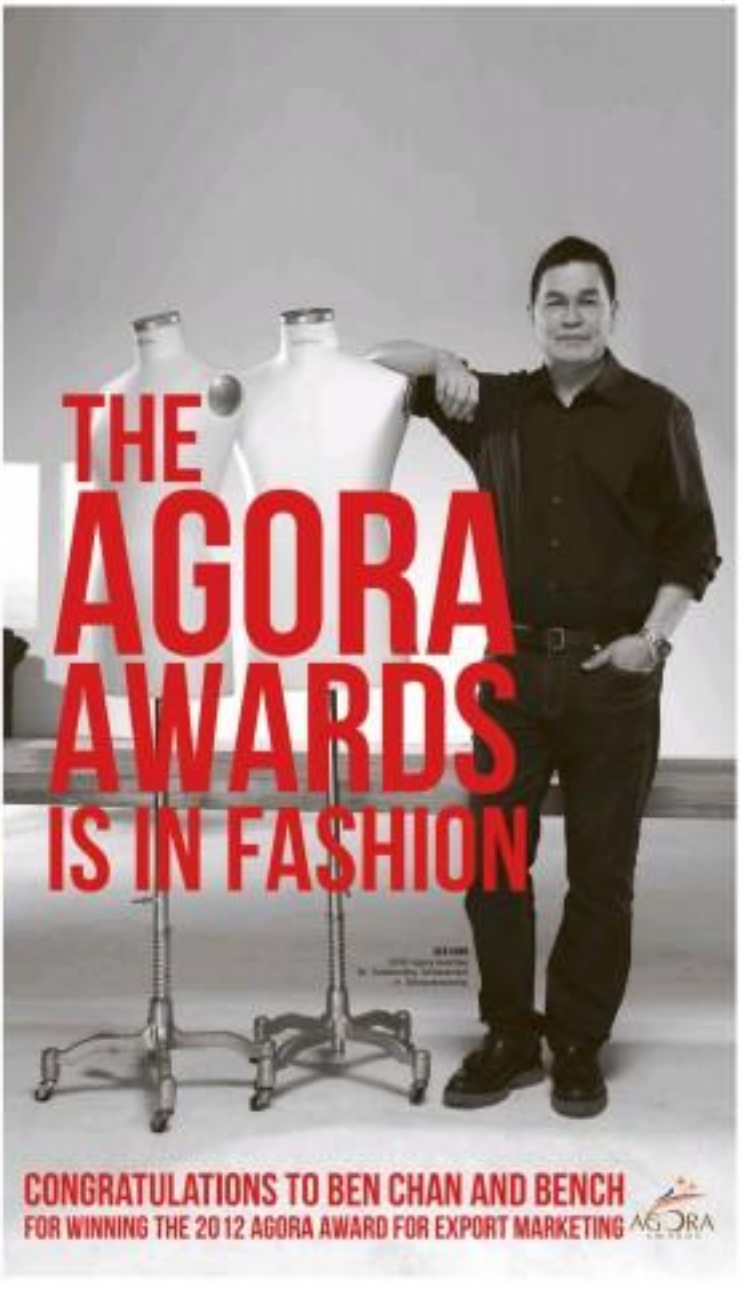
TRIDHARMA Marketing Corporation is a member of Tan Corporation, a community of companies that distributes a wide range of products and services from fast moving consumer goods to financial and healthcare services. Part of Tan's goals is to be able to provide the best of the pyramid with value for money products that can be accessed and enjoyed by majority of the Filipinos. TriDharma takes pride in fulfilling that goal by being able to bring exclusively distribute Intimo Philippines products. These include Kopiko Coffee, Kopiko and Fern Candies, Energen Cereal Drink, and Beng Beng Chocolate.

Six years ago, TriDharma was faced with the challenge of reinventing imported products that had difficulty in penetrating the Philippine market. With the strong determination of their president, Mr. Benz de la Calzada, together with a dedicated management team and employees, TriDharma was able to place their products in almost every nat'onal store and grocery nationwide. The company's growth has become exponential year on year and their products have become a part of the daily lives of many Filipinos.

Mr. Benz de la Calzada is a leader who walks the talk. That is how he has gained the trust of the employees and their vast network of area distribution partners all over the country. He takes the time to do more than to really know what is going on in the marketplace. He thrusts the sales and marketing plans based on his keen sense of the pulse of the consumers, takes the lead, and shows his people how to do the execution of the programs. He is truly a trailblazer.

Mr. de la Calzada has this incredible gift of inspiring the people that he leads to go beyond their abilities and become leaders themselves. He would emphasize among his people the value of service and building long-term relationships with business partners. He would also encourage the employees to give back and would hand, believing that our call labor in vain unless the Almighty blesses the work of our hands.

The Tan Community is extremely grateful to the Philippine Marketing Association for choosing Mr. Benz de la Calzada as this year's Marketing Management Awardee.



bench/

Making our presence a blessing to society

BEN CHAN is the founder, chairman, and executive creative director of BENETI, undoubtedly the most successful fashion and lifestyle retail chain from the Philippines and one of the most well-loved homegrown Filipino brands. Chan was born to an entrepreneurial family, the son of the Chinese immigrant couple who founded the agriculture (antyong) marketing and the younger brother of tycoon Carlos Chan of Oishi snacks. His interest in design began at a young age, which brought him to study Industrial Design in San Francisco, CA, in his teens. He spent a significant portion of his youth working abroad, where he nurtured a keen love for retail as he admired the store window displays and merchandising of his favorite department stores in the USA, Europe, and Japan. He returned to Manila in the 1980s and founded Benetti in 1987 with his younger sister Imelda and his brother-in-law, Virgilio Lim, initially selling menswear at SM Department Store. His foray to home accessories can be credited largely to an interior talent for design, as Benetti fared for the modern poor, contemporaneous prints, an intuitive business acumen, and an unorthodox quirk in marketing to make Benetti a phenomenal global success. Benetti is among a handful of Filipino brands with growing global presence, and the only 80-plus Filipino fashion brand to be established in China, the Middle East, and the USA. Chan has been lauded in various sources as "Marketing Maverick", "The Emperor," and more recently "King of Retail", but the breadth and magnitude of his achievements are deftly counter-balanced by Chan's down-to-earth, humble demeanor. Years into the prime office in Singapore, Benetti's store-in-store concept is now fashioned and sees avenues of growth under Ben Chan, who, when asked what motivation wakes him up in the morning, simply answered, "What's not to like?"

Ayala Corporation has always believed in the Filipino talent and has also promoted the Filipino brand of achievement. It will continue to support worthy activities that would lead to a better future for the country and materially make a difference for the glory of God.

Ayala Corporation has always believed in the Filipino talent and has also promoted the Filipino brand of achievement. It will continue to support worthy activities that would lead to a better future for the country and materially make a difference for the glory of God.

Darlyn Sandra Ty

Viviamol Inc

(Belle de Jour Power Planner)

WHEN Darlyn Ty started Belle de Jour Power Planner, it wasn't just a search for the perfect planner; it was a need for her when she realized it to do such her life. After being conditioned in college to climb the corporate ladder, she realized the corporate world was not something for her, and looked for something more.

In doing so figure out what she wanted to do, she discovered a time management book that made her want to have a perfect planner to use once she found her perfect job, one with a balance of creative and analytical expertise. She started searching for a planner online, to no avail. She decided to make her own, incorporating great feedback from friends, and realizing there's no planner really suited to match the power Filipina nowadays - it became clear that there's an underserved market for planners for people who appreciate the value of setting life goals. Thus, the Belle de Jour Power Planner was born.

BLU Power Planner is packed with insightful features relevant to it makes, from time-management principles based lessons, to setting articles, to sophisticated and fun illustrations, to gorgeous paper, color pop pages, functional touches, and more. BLU challenges you to live your life to follow. Stocked with discount coupons from the best brands, BLU girls can look great while they're on the go, and with a planner purchase. Year-round, BLU Girls get to join events and activities for self-development, and of course to make new friends, like forgetting the technology Darlyn has matched those activities with online organizers from BLU Planner to BLU Circle to BLU webinar sessions!

Starting with this one planner that simply captured inspirations and inspirations, Viviamol Inc. has grown to creating more and more beautiful planners for various companies.

Julie B. Tañada De La Salle University

MS. JULIE B. Tañada has been teaching marketing for 15 years at De La Salle University. In 2010, she found herself searching at the Asian University of Management as an adjunct professor in marketing. She has been consulting for several companies as well like Unilever, Ashlee, Converse, Sun, Miguel Packaging, Acrobat Philippines among others. She decided to work on she can spend more time with her two kids- Silvia and Silvia.

She graduated Cum Laude with a double degree in Communication Arts and Marketing from St. Scholastica's College. Almost immediately after college, she finished her Masters in Business Management from the Ateneo Graduate School of Management. She has finished her residency requirements for her PhD in Communications from the University of the Philippines, except her dissertation.

Prior to teaching, she worked in the retail industry and with her experience she offered retail management. "My course brings students to many countries and has enabled to develop my interpersonal selling (marketing) students, teaches subject she is proud to have contributed to the marketing curriculum in Social Marketing. This subject teaches students that marketing is not all about making money but being able to give back to society. As for her research output and speaking engagement, she is a regular speaker during the Global Business Conferences.

Outside of her teaching profession, she is proud to have co-authored a book called Filipino Pride. This book is a personal advocacy which was launched in October 2009 at the Old Mall of Asia, covered by ABS-CBN and the ANC news. The advocacy was also featured by TFC channel and featured in newspapers and magazines. Most important is giving GMA to cover from 20 schools in Luzon and Mindanao on the advocacy.

Being a true marketing practitioner, she ventured into a franchise business with some partners in 2010. They were featured in the Entrepreneur Magazine (March 2011). In early 2012, they sold their business to go into another advocacy. Together with some creative and IT people, they are responsible for the creation of the first Filipino-themed apps game Sipa-Sakok